Ani chides Oca: Don't drag Gloria into tax row

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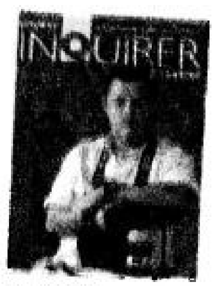

- World-class lensman Albert Garcia
- Joey Ayala's American odyssey
- Theater design prodigy Gino Gonzales

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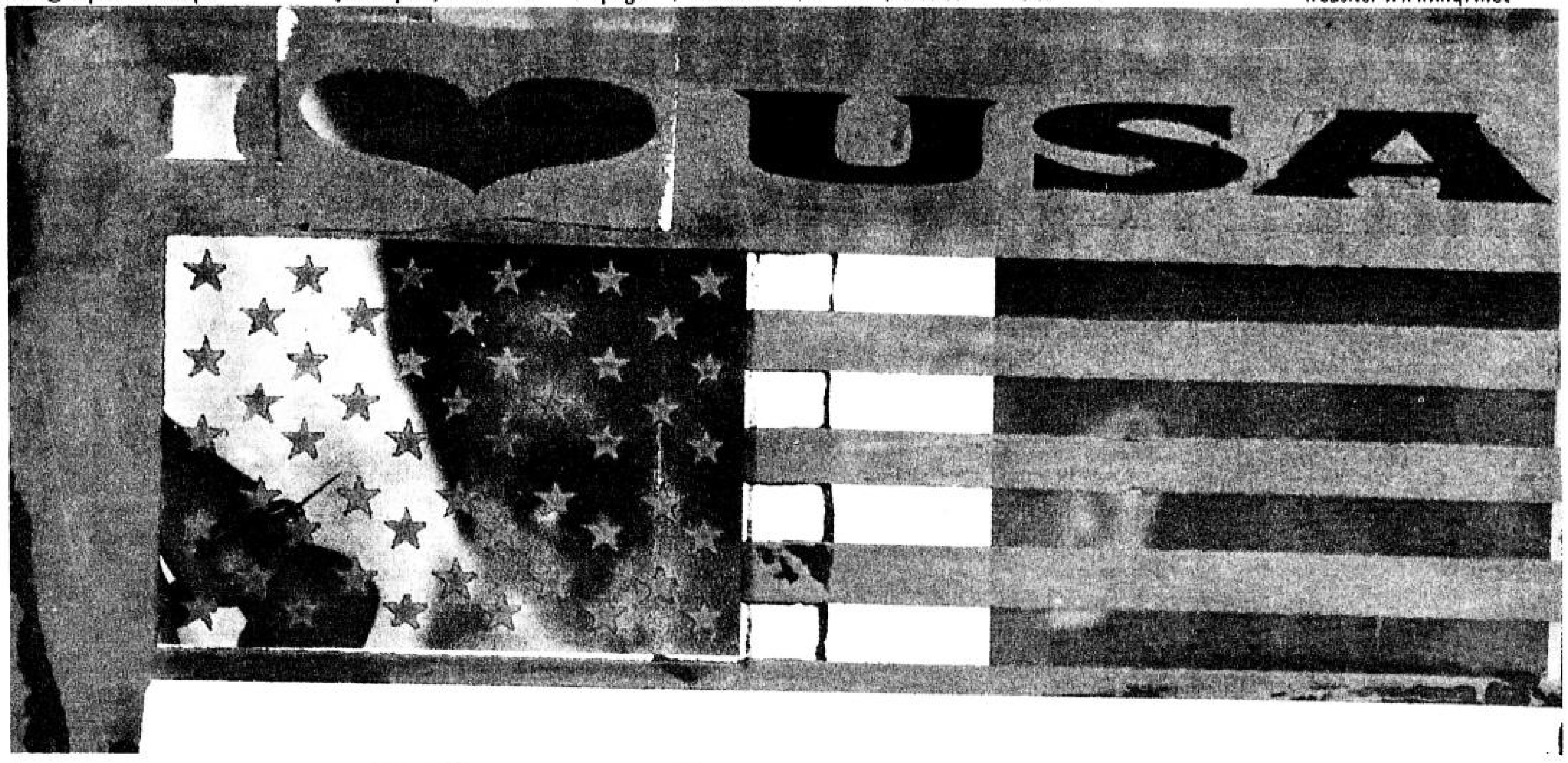


CASHING IN ON AMERICA

Victorino Sarmiento prepares the graphic of an American flag with a message "I love USA" on a silk screen that will be used to print T-shirts. He plans to sell the T-shirts in Zamboanga City where scores of American soldiers have begun arriving to take part in a joint training exercise with Filipino soldiers fighting the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

REUTERS

Joker: GMA's too much

Rival activist groups unite in opposing RP-US war games

By Juliet L. Javellana and Alcuin Papa

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's "cavalier" stance on the issue of US troops fighting in the jungles of Basilan is "just too much," Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

"The President is out of bounds," Arroyo said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER. "The idea (of the National Security Council meeting last Thursday) was to keep the peace in her team, *pero ngayon binabastos niya* (but now she is insulting them)."

Arroyo, a member of the administration coalition, was reacting to the President's statement Friday before the Makati Business Club that the Constitution allowed the deployment of US troops to the battlefield but that she did not allow this as a matter of policy.

He said the danger in this "condescending" statement was that Ms Macapagal "could change her mind and unleash the US troops (against the Abu Sayyaf) because she believes she has the constitutional mandate" to do so.

He also said that by her statement, Ms Macapagal portrayed the members of the NSC as "constitutional ignoramuses."

"The President's handlers should have managed this better," he added in a statement.

At its Thursday meeting in Malacañang, the NSC upheld the holding of the RP-US "Balikatan 02-1" despite the earlier objection of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. on grounds of constitutionality.

The matter continues to be a sore point between Ms Macapagal and Guingona, although the latter has been effectively sidelined by the opinion issued by the Department of Justice that the President can approve the joint military exercise.

Daily street protests have been occurring nationwide, with a number violently dispersed by

JOKER/ A17

PRESIDENT Macapagal feels at home with retired generals at the annual membership meeting of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association in Camp Aguinaldo. At right is Cristolito Balaoing, associate president.

VAL HANDUMON

GMA cites Bush pledge to put US troops under RP command

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and TJ Burgonio

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush has made the commitment that American troops would "take their cue" from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and would not "operate independently" during the RP-US "Balikatan 02-1," President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

"The AFP chief of staff (Gen. Diomedio Villanueva) has total control over all forces under Balikatan. This is understood at the policy and operation levels of both sides," the President told a gathering of Philippine Military Academy alumni at the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

She added: "In this I have the assurance of President Bush that US troops will take their cue from the Philippine government. He called me four nights ago. I told him about these matters. He said he'll be putting these . . . in writing in a forthcoming letter."

Among those present at the gathering were Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes; Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Philippine Air Force commanding general; and Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police.

Ms Macapagal said that "at no point" would "US forces be allowed to operate independently in Philippine territory." She said

GMA/ A18

US presence good for tourism, says Gordon

By Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

THE PRESENCE of American troops here for a joint training exercise with their Filipino counterparts makes the Philippines attractive not only to foreign investors but to tourists as well, according to Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

This was Gordon's message from Jogjakarta, Indonesia, where he is attending the annual Asean Tourism Forum.

"The on-the-spot military training exercise is a good indicator that the country is seriously addressing the peace and order is

US/ A17

REUTERS

AMERICAN soldiers carry timber at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City in preparation for the annual RP-US war games.

Cops foil kidnap of American exec

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two leaders of a notorious kidnap gang were killed in South Cotabato yesterday when they tried to abduct an American plantation manager of Dole Food Co. Inc.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, police chief of Central Mindanao, said his men shot dead two commanders of the Pentagon gang as they swooped down on the house of Christopher H. Hubbard, Asia director for agriculture of the multinational giant.

Baluyot said members of the anti-kidnapping Task Force Sanlahi Pentagon had been warned that at least eight gang members would attempt to snatch Hubbard inside Dole's 10-hectare pineapple plantation and cannery in Polomolok.

With the help of local villagers, the task force deployed policemen inside the plantation to thwart the kidnapping, he said.

"We have been building these intelligence efforts to trace the kidnap gang. We have waited a

COPS/ A18

'Not for my image but country's'

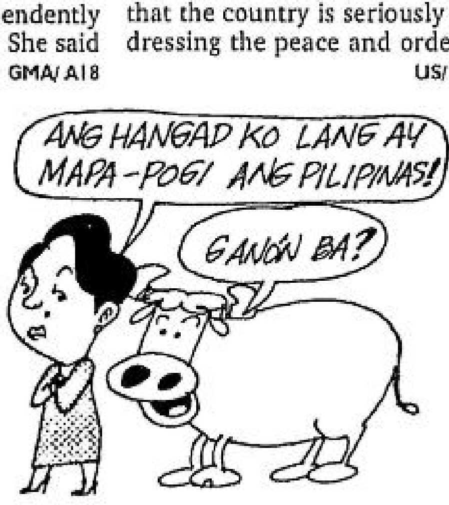
By Fe Zamora
INQ7.net
and Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday confirmed she had hired the US-based public relations firm Burson-Marsteller but said it was intended "not to polish my image (but) to work on the image of the country."

And her spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, downplayed Malacañang's involvement in the deal, saying a group of businessmen had entered into the deal. He did not name the businessmen.

Ms Macapagal said she found nothing wrong with hiring a communications firm, and that she had done it "from the very beginning of my administration."

NOT/ A18


ANG HANGAD KO LANG AY MAPA-POGI ANG PILIPINAS!
GANÓN BA?

HUWAG KA DAW MAGHANAP NG KAKAMPI!

Second FRONT PAGE

Ani chides Oca: Don't drag Gloria into tax credit row

DESIERTO

MORENO

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday chided Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno for dragging the President into the latest controversy to erupt between the two.

Moreno had urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene in the alleged tax credit scam involving Desierto, several former officials of the Department of Finance, executives of oil firms Shell and Petron, and Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe, owners of the Chingkoe group of companies.

"Despite repeated statements by the President that she would not interfere in the case because she respects the Office of the Ombudsman as an independent constitutional body, Moreno continued to make calls for her to intervene," Desierto said.

Desierto said that as a lawyer, Moreno should know that the President cannot meddle in affairs involving separate constitutional bodies.

For her to do so would make her liable for impeachment for culpable violation of the Constitution, Desierto said.

Painted into a corner

"It appears that Moreno now wants the President to bail him out after he painted himself into a corner," the Ombudsman said.

But President Macapagal wants Presidential Task Force 156 to continue "doing its job" of investigating the P5.3-billion tax credit scam.

Other than that, she is not interfering in the task force's rift with Desierto over his alleged whitewash of the case, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"It's entirely under (Finance) Secretary (Jose) Camacho. I'm not aware that the President has given any special instructions (to the task force) to do its job," Tiglao said yesterday.

"(Secretary) Camacho said they've (task force) been doing their job, so I don't know if they need to be given special instructions," Tiglao added.

He said the task force is determined to file 11 or 12 separate cases against the respondents in the case, aside from the case already filed.

He said the President will not interfere in the rift between Desierto, on the one hand, and the task force and Moreno, on the other hand.

"No, she's not doing a Pontius Pilate," Tiglao said of the President.

"We respect first the independence of Congress. If the Department of Justice (gets involved) based on the task force's investigation, that would be the time we could get involved there," he said.

In a privileged speech last week, Moreno charged Desierto with filing a case against those allegedly involved in the tax credit scam "that was designed to be dismissed."

The scam involved the use of fraudulent tax credit certificates by the oil companies and the Chingkoe group. Moreno alleged that Desierto purposely caused the names of Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe and some oil company executives to disappear from the complaint.

He also charged Desierto with causing the identity of the principal witness against the Chingkoes to be revealed, frightening her from further testifying in the case.

Desierto laughed off Moreno's claim he was to blame for the reluctance of the witness to testify.

Witness' identity

"There was no agreement to keep her identity a secret because the law requires that respondents should be presented with the statements of witnesses and other evidence," Desierto explained.

Desierto said this was based on the Supreme Court ruling in Torralba vs Sandiganbayan, as well as the new rules on criminal procedure.

As far as dropping some of the key players in the tax credit scam from the case, Desierto said this was a lie because none of the respondents have been absolved or exonerated.

"The fact is we are still in the process of a preliminary investigation based on the complaints filed by the Ombudsman Fact Finding and Intelligence Bureau and Task Force 156," he said.

Desierto pointed out that his office received a copy of the complaint on Dec. 13, after which the OMB Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau ordered all the respondents to file their counter-affidavits by Jan. 11 this year. ***With Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

Petron denies part in scam

VIRGINIA A. Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager, said the company stands firm on the integrity of the P539 million in settlements it had with the customs bureau in 1997.

"There can be no fraud in these because the tax credit certificates that we use (have gone through) the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Finance," Ruivivar told the INQUIRER.

She explained that even the TCCs they used between December 1995 and March 1996 were never fraudulent.

"What happened was that the customs bureau would not accept our receipts of payment because a criminal syndicate usurped the TCCs we intended for this," she said.

Ruivivar reiterated that Petron had never been involved in any scam to defraud the government saying the firm has consistently complied with tax regulations and guidelines of the finance department. ***Ronnel W. Domingo***

Now, Erap lawyers want justice out of special court

By Norman Bordadora

LAWYERS for deposed President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy have questioned the appointment by the Supreme Court of Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro to the new special division that would hear their plunder case.

The lawyers have filed a motion for reconsideration before the High Court asking it to exclude De Castro from the special division for alleged bias against their clients.

They contend that De Castro is still facing an administrative case of misconduct and abuse of authority filed before the Supreme Court by the former president's lawyers.

"This honorable Court decided prematurely (in deciding to include Justice De Castro in the special division)," the motion for reconsideration read.

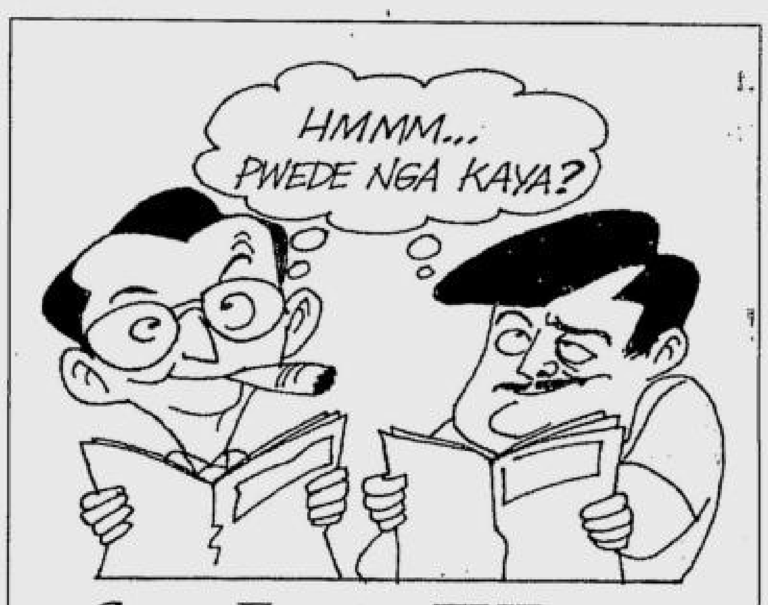
The lawyers asked the Supreme Court if it would still act on the administrative case against De Castro, after the court decided to include her in the special division.

In creating the special Sandiganbayan division last week, the Supreme Court said it found no sufficient reason to grant the defense panel's motion inhibiting De Castro from the case.

In saying that the Supreme Court had decided prematurely against their motion to keep De Castro from the case, the defense lawyers said they have yet to evaluate the response filed by the associate justice in their administrative case against her.

The case against De Castro stemmed from a heated courtroom exchange between her and Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag last year.

The exchange resulted in Saguisag being banished from the courtroom by De Castro.


HMMM...
PWEDE NGA KAYA?

Can Erap, FVR run again? Don't ask me now, says judge

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA regional trial court has dismissed for lack of merit the petition of a minor political party seeking clarification on whether former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada could run for reelection in 2004.

Judge Rustico Panganiban of Manila RTC Branch 51 said the allegation of the Social Justice Party that (Ramos and Estrada) were seeking reelection was "purely speculative."

"The determination of whether they are qualified to seek reelection is premature and, therefore, not ripe for judicial determination," Panganiban said in his three-page resolution dated Jan. 23.

In their petition for declaratory relief, the Manila-based SJS asked if a president who was unable to finish his six-year term could run for reelection. It also wanted to know if a former president who did finish his term could run in the elections held after his successor's term.

The SJS used as the basis for their Jan. 3 petition two recent INQUIRER articles that quoted Ramos and Estrada. Both were named respondents in the case.

Ramos had said the question of whether a former president could run for reelection was a "constitutional gray area," which requires judicial clarification.

Estrada, for his part, hinted that he might run for reelection to vindicate himself of charges of corruption.

But Judge Panganiban, citing the principle of justifiable controversy, said it would be "unwarranted" for the court to take cognizance of the SJS petition, "when it is clear it does not involve an actual controversy and there is no right of the petitioner that is violated."

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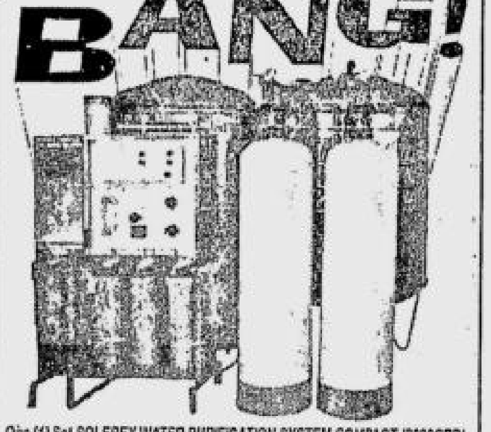

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Misuari courthouse rushed for Feb. 16 trial

By TJ Burgonio

CONSTRUCTION of the special courthouse for the trial of Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari in Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, will be rushed to meet a Feb. 16 deadline, police officials said yesterday.

Philippine National Police Director Lucas Managuelod assured Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño the courthouse "will be ready for use on Feb. 18," the first day of the rebellion trial of Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Managuelod, chief of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, said construction of the P2.9-million courthouse will be speeded up to avoid having to hold the trial initially in a Calamba, Laguna, court as ordered by the Supreme Court.

Holding the trial in Calamba would entail elaborate security measures and huge costs for the police, Managuelod said.

"If it's going to be held in the camp, there won't be much of a problem. The courthouse will only be 10 meters away from the bungalow where Misuari is being held," he said.

The courthouse will have a sala, judge's chambers, separate rooms for the defense and prosecution panels and will be fully air-conditioned. Its construction starts today.

The Supreme Court granted last week the request of the justice department to move Misuari's trial from Jolo, Sulu to Fort Sto. Domingo.

It ordered the national police to construct a courthouse for the trial. Pending completion of the courthouse, it ordered the trial to be held in the regional trial court of Judge Norberto Gonzales in Calamba.

Misuari has been held at Fort Sto. Domingo since he was deported by Malaysia early this month.

He is facing charges of rebellion for allegedly ordering armed supporters to attack military outposts in Jolo in a bid to thwart the ARMM's November elections that picked his successor.

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said there is no need to beef up security in the police camp during Misuari's trial.

"Our personnel are more than enough," Mendoza said, referring to the elite Special Action Forces who train at Fort Sto. Domingo.

Asked if the media would be allowed to cover Misuari's trial, Mendoza said it would be up to the court to decide.

"That depends on the court. We will have to check if the court would allow it," he said.

Senate to review pact with MNLF

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SENATE will conduct a thorough review of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front in a bid to prevent a repeat of the violent clashes between their armed forces in Jolo last month.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, chair of the committee on peace, unification and reconciliation, said the recent armed clashes in Sulu were a "spill-over" of the ongoing dispute between the Macapagal administration and former MLNF chair Nur Misuari over the implementation of the peace pact.

"We can expect a continuation or a possible escalation of armed clashes in Mindanao, particularly in the four provinces of ARMM, unless the government and the new MNLF leadership are clear about the implementation of their peace pact," he said.

"Any offensive directed against Misuari and his supporters could even spread to Moro Islamic Liberation Front-controlled areas and other rebel groups in Mindanao, which might hamper the ongoing peace process in the South," he added.

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Erap opposition leader no more, says Gloria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday claimed that ousted President Joseph Estrada is no longer the opposition leader.

In her weekly program, "May Gloria Ang Bukas Mo," she pointed out that pro-Estrada senators stopped rallying for their jailed leader.

"He's not even a figurehead. If you listen to the debates in the Senate, they hardly mention his name," she said.

"In other words, their agenda is not Erap. He is not the rallying point in the debates. The debates are about policies," she added.

To prove her point, she said none of the senators identified with Estrada filed a bill to place him under house arrest, as Estrada prefers.

Ms Macapagal thanked the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara for declaring that they will not support moves to destabilize her government.

She said that without the LDP's support, the pro-Estrada forces were not able to mobilize a huge rally during the Jan. 20 People Power II anniversary.

"I thank the opposition for its support to my administration," she said.

"I believe that they are sincere, that they would not support any moves to topple the government before the next presidential election.

Ms Macapagal also thanked the opposition for supporting the RP-US Balikatan "training exercises."

She said she was glad that Sen. Blas Ople, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, believed her word that the US soldiers will not do any fighting.

State-owned shipping firm bucks efforts to shut it down

PRIVATE shipping companies want a state-owned shipping firm closed, just when it is starting to turn in a profit for the government.

This was the complaint yesterday of retired Gen. Cesar F. Tapia, president of the PNOC Shipping and Transport Corp., who denounced the private group's efforts to run the PSTC aground simply because it posed competition to the private sector.

Tapia said the Philippine Petroleum Sea Transport Association (Philpesta) had been lobbying for the government to stop the now profitable PSTC from operating and from pursuing a fleet modernization program.

In a letter to Malacañang and the Department of Energy, Philpesta said the state-owned shipping firm posed undue competition to the private shippers. It said the government should leave business to the private sector.

But Tapia this demand was unreasonable and bereft of any legal basis and even illegal. He said the only way for the government to get out of the shipping business is by privatizing the firm.

But Philpesta, Tapia said, is not even interested in the privatization of PSTC. Public biddings aimed at privatizing the firm in 1994 and 1997 both failed.

He explained that the government, through the Philippine National Oil Co., was left with no recourse but to run the shipping business and to improve its operations and viability to enhance the state-owned firm's value to ensure the success of future privatization efforts.

"PSTC categorically supports the policy of the Arroyo administration of leaving business in the hands of the private sector and has endeavored to ensure that PSTC would be a viable and healthy business venture when it is privatized so that government would be able to secure better prices for the business," Tapia said.

However, Philpesta is not at all sincere in pushing for PSTC's privatization, Tapia said. It does not only want government to scuttle PSTC's fleet modernization program to meet growing market demand for younger and more efficient bottoms but to ensure PSTC's immediate extinction by Presidential edict," Tapia said.

To prove this, Tapia quoted a letter sent by Doris Magsaysay Ho, president of the Philippine Interland Shipping Association, to Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, wherein the domestic private shipping groups merely wanted government to get "PSTC to wind down its operations as soon as practicable and dispose of its two remaining vessels."

"The campaign to scuttle, cripple or sabotage PSTC's ongoing improvement programs under the guise of cleverly packaged but self-serving demands for government to leave business to the private sector is ill-timed, unreasonable and contrary to law," Tapia said.

Tapia explained that succumbing to the pressure tactics of the shipping groups and acceding to their demands violates the law and public policy and is inimical to the national interest.

"Do we just close shop because local private oil shipping groups with aging, inefficient fleets fear a more efficient state-owned shipping firm from pursuing its mandate under its franchise and the law?" he said.

Far from being a moribund shipping firm years ago, Tapia said PSTC today has protected taxpayers' money and generated millions of pesos in returns to the national government. It has sustained its profitability and maintained its competitiveness without any subsidies or additional equity infusion from government. Nor has it obtained any behest loans, unilateral contracts from the national government, financial institutions and other state entities, Tapia said.

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Opposition welcomes political summit

By Cynthia D. Balana

PIMENTEL

THE OPPOSITION welcomed the political summit which President Macapagal-Arroyo plans to convene to discuss the parameters of her proposal for a moratorium on political bickerings.

Thus said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, who stressed that for this moratorium to succeed, the President should observe it in letter and spirit.

"She should restrain herself and her allies from hurling false and malicious accusations against opposition personalities," Pimentel said.

"She is morally bound to do so unless her call for a halt to partisan bickerings is just for show," he added.

According to the senator, minority senators would agree to a truce on political mudslinging and faultfinding in order not to raise the level of friction and distrust with the administration.

But this, he said, does not mean that they would sacrifice their role of checking wrongdoings in the government.

"We will not abdicate our traditional and constitutional role as public watchdog especially in safeguarding taxpayers' money from anomalies," Pimentel said.

For her part, Oreta said the President must always avoid being on the warpath with the opposition, saying her "war footing" against critics negated the proposed moratorium.

Oreta said that the President's vow to slug it out—in Muhammad Ali fashion—until her term ends in 2004 created an environment not conducive to building a united front.

"Mrs. Arroyo cannot have the best of both worlds where she expects her critics to shut up while she continues to be on fighting mode—ala Muhammad Ali—in pummeling Mr. Estrada with verbal punches and even trying to knock out the legacy of Edsa," Oreta said.

She continued : "The real boxing match that President Arroyo has to gird up for is not her fight against her critics or detractors but the more crucial one against grinding poverty and the breakdown in peace and order."

Sen. Edgardo Angara said that minority senators in the Senate have been helpful in passing certain programs of the government and in confirming nominees of the President before the Commission on Appointments.

He cited the early passage of the anti-money laundering law which was signed into law late last year upon the insistence of the Department of Finance.

Angara said that for a moratorium against political bickering to stand, the President should also stop blaming the opposition for every failure of the government.

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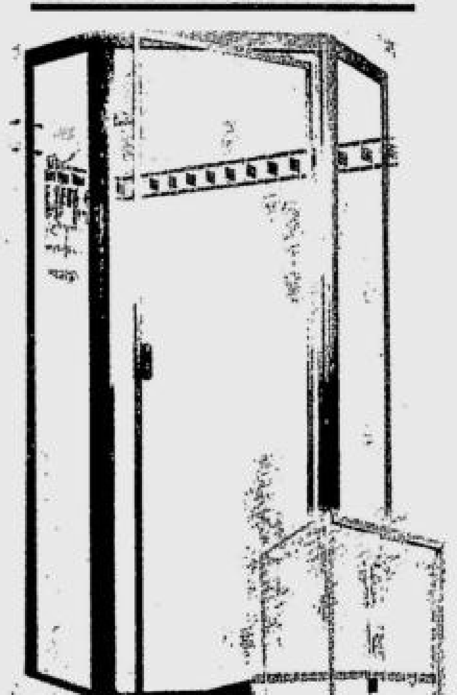

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Convicted mayor's family still haunts Misamis town

SAPANG DALAGA, Misamis Occidental—The family of the former mayor who was convicted in the killing of a political rival continues to haunt the town of Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental, according to the acting mayor, who fears he will be the next target of the family's political vendetta.

Acting Mayor Manuel Animas said the Yap family, driven out of power by a series of political, electoral and legal setbacks, is hell-bent on regaining power in the town it dominated for decades. The family is headed by two former mayors—matriarch Pacita Yap, and his son Rey, who is now serving life sentence in Muntinlupa along with his brother.

Animas has asked the Department of Justice and the country's prosecutors and regional trial courts to be on the lookout for a "malicious scheme" to unseat him and the acting vice mayor by sending them to jail on trumped-up non-bailable charges.

The ploy, Animas said, has worked before on former mayor and vice mayor and led to the ascension to the mayorship of the family matriarch, Pacita Yap. The former vice mayor is Animas' son, Donjie.

Animas said Mrs. Yap, who was the town's top councilor, became mayor when then acting Mayor Joel Maniwan, acting Vice Mayor Donjie Animas and private secretary Alfonso D'Lonsod were jailed on fabricated charges of large-scale illegal recruitment.

Animas said that in early 2000, the three town officials were accused of illegal recruitment, a non-bailable offense, and the complainants were persons under the control of the Yap family.

He said the summons were sent to a wrong address in Metro Manila, and not to Sapang Dalaga where the three were serving. Since they were not aware of the case, the three failed to refute the charges against them in the preliminary investigation. And when the charges were filed by prosecutors in court, warrants for their arrest were immediately issued.

While the three could not be found at the address supplied by the complainant, the arresting officers did not have any trouble finding them when it was time to serve the arrest warrants.

The three were eventually acquitted, but not after languishing in a jail without bail for 11 months. In the meantime, Mrs. Yap, as the No. 1 councilor, moved up to take over as acting mayor.

Although acquitted, Maniwan and the younger Animas were prevented from reassuming their position because another set of illegal recruitment charges were filed against them and warrants for their arrest again were issued. The same ploy was used.

The three are at large while their lawyers are trying to expose the frame-up.

In the last election, Mrs. Yap was elected mayor, but she herself failed to assume office because of a pending warrant for her arrest for murder.

Forced to run since his son Donjie failed to run for reelection, the elder Animas won as vice mayor moved up as acting mayor. The first councilor. Annabelle Suminguit, became acting vice mayor.

Another Yap, however, looms in the horizon. Ruel Yap was elected No. 2 councilor and has moved up next in the line of succession. If the acting mayor and vice mayor are eliminated from the picture, Ruel Yap will move up as mayor, Animas said.

Animas said he fears he and the acting vice mayor will again be the victim of fabricated charges to get them out of the way.

Thus, he said, he is serving notice to all prosecutors and judges all over the country that any summons for them to appear in any preliminary investigation should be sent to Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental, where they serve as the town's top officials.

The Yap family had dominated Sapang Dalaga for three decades but the rule had been marred by violence. The Yap patriarch, Reno Yap Jr., was assassinated by the communist New People's Army in 1983, thrusting his widow and children in the forefront of politics.

Mrs. Yap became mayor and later provincial board member, and his son Rey also became mayor. But the other son, Roy, ran for mayor in the nearby town of Rizal, Zamboanga del Norte, in 1992 with disastrous results. His election rival, Victorio Cebedo, was assassinated a few days before the election and his brother Perfecto Cebedo took over as candidate and won.

The Yap brothers were later identified by the confessed triggerman as the mastermind in the killing. During their nine-year trial, which was transferred to Manila, the Yap brothers were detained at the National Bureau of Investigation, where, according to their political opponents, they enjoyed VIP treatment.

The two brothers were convicted last year and were sentenced to life imprisonment.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 27, 2002
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 8:23–9:3

Yahweh has just afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali; but in the future he will confer glory on the way of the sea, on the land beyond the Jordan—the pagans' Galilee.

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

A light has dawned on those who live in the land of the shadow of death.

You have enlarged the nation; you have increased their joy.

They rejoice before you, as people rejoice at harvest time as they rejoice in dividing the spoil.

For the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors, you have broken it as on the day of Midian.

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1: 10-13, 17

I beg of you, brothers, in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, to agree among yourselves and do away with divisions; please be perfectly united, with one mind and one judgment.

For I heard from people of Cloe's house about your rivalries. What I mean is this: some say, "I am for Paul," and others: "I am for Apollo," or "I am for Peter," or "I am for Christ." Is Christ divided or have I, Paul, been crucified for you? Have you been baptized in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to proclaim his Gospel. And not with beautiful words! That would be like getting rid of the cross of Christ.

Gospel: Mt 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to settle down in Capernaum, a town by the lake of Galilee, at the border of Zebulun and Naphtali.

In this way the word of the prophet Isaiah was fulfilled: *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali crossed by the Road of the Sea, and you who live by the Jordan, Galilee, land of pagans, listen:*

The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in the land of the shadow of death, a light has shone.

From that time on Jesus began to proclaim his message, "Change your ways: the kingdom of heaven is near."

As Jesus walked by the lake of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He went on from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them.

At once they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went around all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and curing all kinds of sickness and disease among the people.

Commentary

The message has long been proclaimed, yet it seems that the response has always been the same – either people are too busy or they are simply indifferent to the message. But just as the Word remains, so the message remains the same.

This Word continues to echo the great loving kindness of the first Speaker and, in turn, the Word passes on to us the message of truth and hope: the truth of our existence—that our life is far from ideal – and the hope that in spite of our flawed existence, we are called to perfection, if we but change our ways and turn to him who proclaims the message.

He calls us to follow him, to leave behind whatever we are preoccupied with, that he may bring us to the fullness of life.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

POLITICAL LAW (PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW)—Recognition by domestic tribunal of a foreign tribunal—Generally, in the absence of a special compact, no sovereign is bound to give effect within its dominion to a judgment rendered by a tribunal of another country; however, the rules of comity, utility and convenience of nations have established a usage among civilized states by which final judgments of foreign courts of competent jurisdiction are reciprocally respected and rendered efficacious under certain conditions that may vary in different countries. In this jurisdiction, a valid judgment rendered by a foreign tribunal may be recognized insofar as the immediate parties and the underlying cause of action are concerned so long as it is convincingly shown that there has been an opportunity for a full and fair hearing before a court of competent jurisdiction; that the trial upon regular proceedings has been conducted, following due citation or voluntary appearance of the defendant and under a system of jurisprudence likely to secure an impartial administration of justice; and that there is nothing to indicate either a prejudice in court and in the system of laws under which it is sitting in procuring the judgment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, Asiavest Merchant Bankers (M) Berhad v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 110263, July 20, 2001] DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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Pinoy eyes seat in California legislature

By Percy D. Della

SACRAMENTO, California—Being the fastest growing Asian minority group in California has paid political dividends for the Filipino-American community.

Fil-Ams have been elected mayors and councilmen of small California cities. But the higher echelons of state political power, notably the State Assembly, whose 79 members include four Asian-Americans—three of Chinese descent and one Japanese—has eluded them.

However, the Fil-Am community is once again revving up its hope of finally sending one of its own to the capitol's corridors of power.

Christopher Cabaldon is a bright, articulate college administrator, council member and former mayor of Sacramento's sister city across the river, West Sacramento. He becomes the latest Fil-Am to carry the spear for his community's campaign for political recognition and clout in a trend-setting state.

The 42-year-old Cabaldon, currently vice chancellor of the California Community Colleges System, is running for the open State Assembly seat in District 8—a new district and offshoot of the periodic redistricting of political boundaries. The redrawn area includes cities with sizeable Filipino voters like Fairfield, Suisun, Dixon, Vacaville, Benicia and West Sacramento.

If elected, Cabaldon becomes the first person of his race in the state to become an assembly member. His responsibility would be similar to a member of the United States Congress, but only in California, which still happens to be the most populous state.

A few Fil-Ams have made it to statehouses in Maryland, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska. But political experts say that California—where most Filipinos in America are concentrated—remains the bellwether for political empowerment.

A Fil-Am in the influential California Legislature would have a pulse on the mother country's dealings with the fifth largest economy in the world.

"The time has finally come to tell our story under the capitol dome, and to give voice to Filipino-Americans across the country's largest state," said Cabaldon.

"I look forward to fighting in the California Legislature for equity for Filipino veterans, licensure recognition for Filipino-American professionals, economic justice for nurses and other health care workers, and for Tagalog and Filipino-American history to be taught in California schools."

Cabaldon, a Democrat, enjoys the endorsement of union and teacher groups. But supporters say his run in the March 5 primary elections will not be a cakewalk. He is up against a legislative committee consultant from Vacaville and a Yolo County supervisor from Davis.

The son of parents with roots in the Ilocos and Bicol regions, Cabaldon grew up in Los Angeles and attended California's first public magnet school for the educationally gifted.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in environmental economics at the University of California at Berkeley, where he was student council vice president. He settled in the Sacramento area in 1987. He has a master's degree in public policy from Cal State University Sacramento.

Cabaldon's record of public service includes 10 years as a top policy expert in the Legislature—the chamber he is trying to join as a member.

He was president of Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education, a member of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, and chair of the Yolo County Transportation Board. Last year, he was elected member of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Cabaldon was elected to the West Sacramento city council in a 1996 special election. In 1998, the city council elected him mayor. He became the first mayor to be elected to a second consecutive term.

Another Fil-Am, Tom Santos, a tax expert and realtor of Pampangueño origins, is running again. He lost previous races for the Board of Equalization and the US Congress.

Political observers say Santos has gotten name recognition from his previous candidacies, but would need more political seasoning.

Pundits say Santos's second campaign for the Board of Equalization would be an uphill battle. Members of the tax agency are among the state's constitutional officers. Previous board members include Matt Fong, who became state treasurer before losing a run for the US Senate, and Gray Davis, current California governor.

CABALDON

Hearings set for RP war veterans bill

SAN DIEGO, California—Hearings for the Filipino Veterans "Equity Bill" in this city have been rescheduled for Feb. 18.

The hearings will study amendments in both Senate Bill 1042 and House Bill 491, to be conducted by subcommittee on veterans and health chair Rep. Jerry Moran.

The amendments would seek to restore health benefits that were withheld from Filipino veterans despite their conscripted service in World War II as US nationals.

HB 491, which was introduced in February last year to provide equity in benefits to Filipino veterans, was given a boost when President George W. Bush publicly stated: "The US must honor its promise to veterans."

Some veterans, however, retorted that Filipinos had been discriminated against, unlike the 116,000 nationals of the 66 other countries who served the US Armed Forces during WW II and who are getting full benefits every month from the US government no matter where they are in the world.

The son of a US-conscripted Filipino soldier who died in the war said federal war service is a constitutionally founded contract between the US government and the soldier, and if an alien, he is granted US citizenship and all the accompanying benefits and privileges.

Hence, said Prisco E. Entines, the discrimination against all Filipinos who were conscripted into the war is scandalous.

In a press statement, Entines asked, "Where is true and equal racial justice that would give final and real peace to Filipino-American war heroes and their families?"

Yakuzas keep coming back

MEMBERS of the Japanese underworld Yakuza are so bent on slipping into the country that they are even trying to pass themselves off as disabled tourists to evoke pity and have an easier time with local immigration authorities.

Immigration intelligence authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last week prevented two suspected members of the Yakuza from entering the country after they saw through the Japanese disguise and saw tattoos and a clipped finger.

Takahiro Ikatsu, 49, and Yoshihiro Suzuki, 48, tried to slip into the country on Wednesday afternoon. Ikatsu was wheeled into the immigration line while Suzuki had an arm sling around his neck.

Alert immigration authorities, however, held the two Japanese for interrogation and found out that they were indeed members of the dreaded Yakuza.

Ikatsu and Suzuki sported various tattoos that supposedly betrayed their alleged membership into the dreaded Japanese mafia.

Ikatsu even had a clipped pinky which he tried to hide by attaching a prosthetic finger on the stump.

Both suspects were then deported to Osaka, their point of origin.

While Ikatsu called off his attempt to slip into the country, Suzuki tried to enter again the following day.

Again he was thwarted by immigration authorities and was deported to Japan.

Intelligence sources at the Naia told the INQUIRER that the a good number of Yakuza members have been trying to slip into the country in the past weeks.

It is said that they are trying to establish businesses in Manila to be used as fronts for their illegal activities.

Several Yakuza members have already been deported since the start of the new year.

Indonesian terror suspects gone

TWO Indonesians, who were being hunted down for their connection with a captured compatriot suspected of having terrorist links, are believed to have fled the country.

The massive search for the two Indonesians, identified by their aliases as Tau Pic and Hassan and believed to be companions of suspected terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, has proved futile, police officials said.

"They are not here anymore, but still we're verifying their whereabouts from other sources," Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, told reporters.

Tau Pic and Hassan had been staying at al-Ghozi's rented apartment in General Santos City for some time but escaped after learning of al-Ghozi's arrest in Manila on Jan. 15, police said.

Two days after al-Ghozi's arrest, police intelligence agents raided his apartment and seized a cache of explosives and arrested three Filipino companions.

Meanwhile, Singaporean policemen are set to visit Manila this week to verify al-Ghozi's alleged links with Jemaah Islamiya and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, Mendoza said.

9th Anniversary Raffle Promo

Sara Lee

Direct Selling

MORE THAN P3,000,000

in Cash & Prizes

To Be Given Away!

A Grand Total of 1,758 Winners Nationwide

CELEBRATE OUR 9th YEAR AND GET THE CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE OF

P1,000,000.00 CASH EACH!

(1customer, 1 dealer)

P1,000,000.00
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SARA LEE PHILIPPINES, INC.
PAY TO THE ORDER OF HOUSE OF SARA LEE CUSTOMER P 1,000,000.00
THE SUM OF ONE MILLION PESOS
SARA LEE PHILIPPINES, INC.
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THE SUM OF ONE MILLION PESOS
HOUSE OF SARA LEE DEALER TEN THOUSAND PESOS
HOUSE OF SARA LEE CUSTOMER TEN THOUSAND PESOS
PLUS, MORE BIG, BIG PRIZES ARE ALSO AT STAKE
DOUBLE PRIZE SURPRISE
If you win, your House of Sara Lee Dealer wins the same prize, too!
P10,000.00
(20 customers, 20 dealers)
Sanyo Refrigerator
(5 cu. ft) 0.15 cu.m
(10 customers, 10 dealers)
La Germania Gas Range
(10 customers, 10 dealers)
Sharp Washing Machine
(10 customers, 10 dealers)
Aiwa VCD Component
(10 customers, 10 dealers)
Union Electric Fan
(12") 30.48 cm.
(133 customers, 133 dealers)
House of Sara Lee Gift Certificates:
(Customer Selling Price)
worth P500 (133 customers, 133 dealers)
worth P1,000 (133 customers, 133 dealers)
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Hanabishi Rice Cooker
(133 customers, 133 dealers)
GIFT CERTIFICATE P2,000.00
Best One Oven Toaster
(133 customers, 133 dealers)
Samsung Microwave Oven
(10 customers, 10 dealers)
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(21") 53.34 cm
(10 customers, 10 dealers)

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN JOIN:

Get one raffle coupon for every purchase worth P300 from February 1 to 28, 2002. The more purchases you make, the more chances for you to win. So remember to ask your House of Sara Lee Dealer for your raffle coupon!

PROMO MECHANICS:

Promo period is from February 1 to 28, 2002.
A total of 879 coupons will be drawn (879 winning customers will have a corresponding 879 winning dealers) with 798 winning coupons (798 customers, 798 dealers) to be drawn on the March 13, 2002 Branch Draws. 81 winning coupons (81 customers, 81 dealers) will be drawn on the March 22, 2002 National Draw.

Fill-up your coupon completely.
Write your name, address, name of dealer, branch of dealer, and affix your signature. Drop your raffle coupons in designated drop boxes at the branch affiliation of your dealer.

Winners will be notified through registered mail.
Names of winners will also be published in leading newspapers and will be posted in all House of Sara Lee branches.

TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE:

Present the stub of your winning coupon, your notification letter and 2 valid identification cards (Driver's License, Passport, School or Company ID, etc.) to the House of Sara Lee Head Office at 2288 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

A customer can win more than once at the Branch Level Raffle Draw, but may only win once at the National Draw. If your name is drawn more than once, you automatically get the prize with the greater value. A dealer, however, may win more than once on the Branch and National Draws.

All non-winning entries at the Branch Level Draws will be included in the National Draw.

All prizes are non-transferrable. Appliances and House of Sara Lee Gift Certificates are not convertible to cash. For prizes exceeding P10,000 in value, 20% tax will be shouldered by the winners.

Employees of House of Sara Lee, its advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.

House of Sara Lee dealers and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to win as consumers.

A winning dealer with a past due account during the draw dates shall forfeit her prize.

Winners may claim their prizes at the branch affiliation of the winning dealers. Prizes not claimed after 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited with prior DTI approval.

Branch Level Draw Prizes:
Hanabishi Rice Cooker
Best One Oven Toaster
Union Electric Fan
Gift Certificates

National Draw Prizes:
P1,000,000.00 cash
P10,000.00 cash
Samsung Microwave
Sanyo Refrigerator
Sanyo Color TV
La Germania Gas Range
Aiwa VCD Component
Sharp Washing Machine

WATCH OUT FOR THESE DATES:

March 09, 2002 - Deadline for submission of raffle entries to all branches
March 13, 2002 - Branch Level Draws
March 22, 2002 - National Level Raffle Draw at House of Sara Lee Head Office

A DTI representative shall be present to witness the Branch Level and National Level raffle draws.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0084 Series of 2002

EUGENIA
D. APOSTOL
*Founding
Chairman*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Intimidation

WHEN Rep. Oscar Moreno accused Ombudsman Aniano Desierto last Wednesday of taking a dive on the P5.3-billion tax credit scam, the ombudsman's deputy was conspicuous in the gallery. Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio was seen taking notes and making calls on his cell phone throughout the privilege speech.

In itself, Gervacio's behavior was unremarkable—but it was not unprecedented. Late last year, he was seen doing the same thing, during the two hearings the House justice committee conducted on the impeachment complaint filed against Desierto. In the first session, the complaint was found to be sufficient in form, but in the second it was determined to be insufficient in substance.

It was during the second session that Gervacio's behavior turned from curious to suspicious, because aside from taking notes and making calls he was seen winking back at or giving the thumbs-up sign to committee members as they voted against the complaint. On the surface, there was nothing amiss except perhaps a general tastelessness. But on the level of conduct expected of officers of the court, it was downright suspect. After all, the legal principle that impartiality must be observed not only in fact but also in appearance does not apply to judges alone.

In the case of Gervacio, who is sworn to prosecute graft cases against government officials, such brazen chumminess was totally unexpected. We do not mean to suggest that every congressman is a crook, only that the Office of the Ombudsman must keep the proper distance from them or from government officials in general. They are, by definition, prospective targets of an Ombudsman investigation.

In this light, the copious note-taking and conspicuous telephoning of no less than the second-in-command at the Office of the Ombudsman take on a different, darker color: that of intimidation.

Obfuscation

THAT Gervacio's presence is meant to be construed as a warning to congressmen is all of a piece with Desierto's general defense strategy against Moreno's accusations, which can be summarized as follows: go on the offensive.

Indeed, even before Moreno read his speech late on Wednesday, Desierto and his staff were already hitting the airwaves, issuing a generic denial.

After the speech, Desierto and the official spokesperson of his office, lawyer Jose de Jesus Jr., accused Moreno of harboring senatorial ambitions and thus of using the tax credit scam merely to gain political mileage.

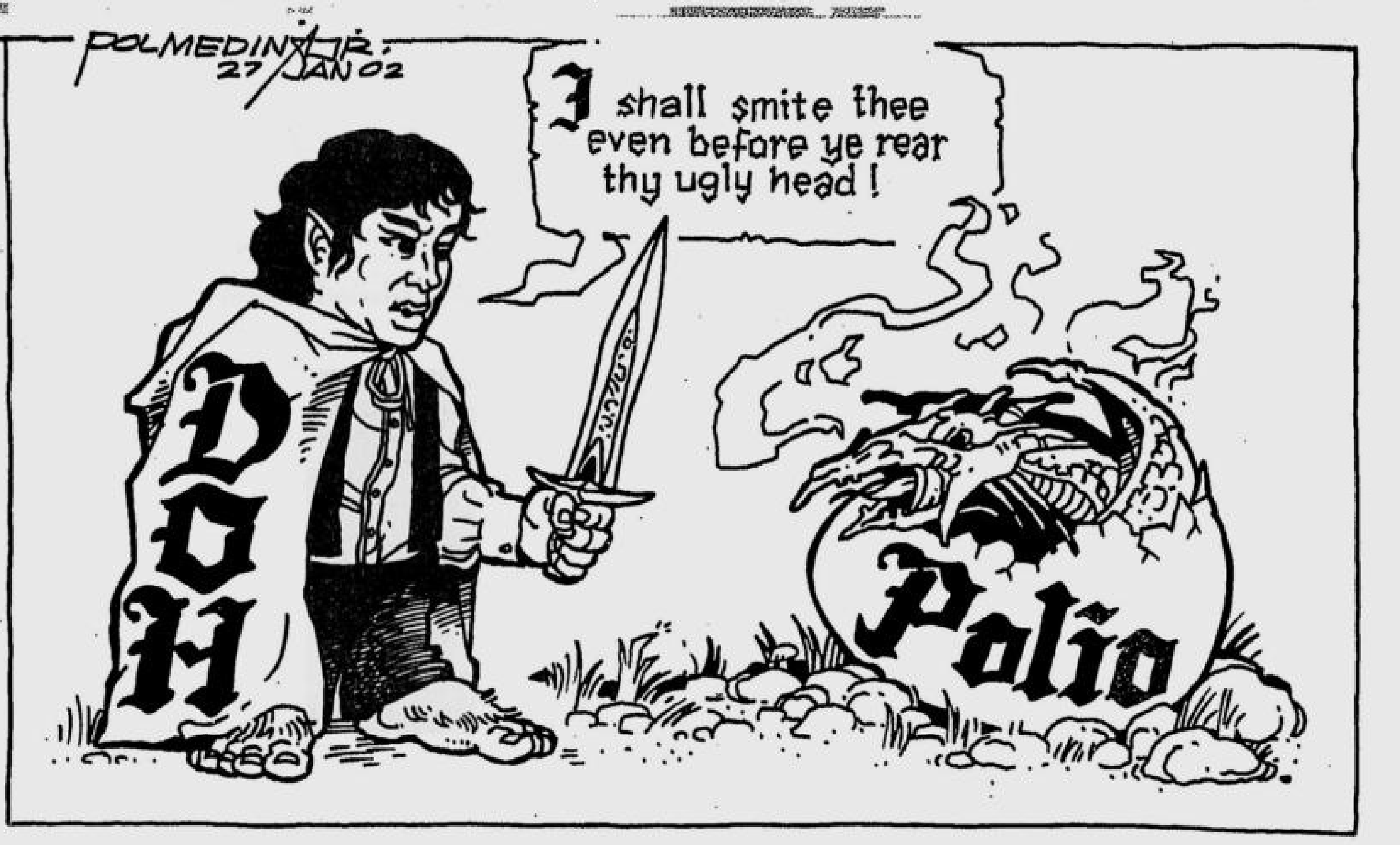
The following morning, Desierto repeated this charge and added a new one: that Moreno did not understand the highly technical nature of the scam. This seems unlikely, because as the Estrada impeachment trial proved, Moreno's background makes him one of the House experts in matters related to banking and the law. But plausibility is not a strong suit of the ombudsman's defense strategy.

Since Wednesday, Desierto's main argument has been his accuser's allegedly unfair advantage as a legislator. Stripped down to its basic elements, his defense follows a simple outline: Moreno has used the halls of Congress to raise his charges against the ombudsman; the ombudsman cannot take him to account because he is shielded by parliamentary immunity; therefore the charges are false. Indeed, he himself has said precisely this: "(Moreno leveled) his accusations against me in a privilege speech so that he could not be charged. He wants congressional protection, so his accusations must be without basis."

This argument raises eyebrows in its cavalier use of logic, but what takes the breath away is the assumption behind the argument, that if only the accused can get back at his accuser, the accusation will be answered or will go away.

Desierto has repeatedly challenged Moreno to repeat his accusations outside Congress. Why? Will this make the charges any less true or any more false?

The answer is as obvious as a graft investigator taking down notes or giving the thumbs-up sign during a crucial congressional vote. The ombudsman knows the game, and its name is intimidation.


POLMEDIN JR.
27 JAN 02
I shall smite thee even before ye rear thy ugly head!
DOH
Polio

Politicking for 2004

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE OTHER week, there appeared on the front page of the INQUIRER a picture of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo carrying a little child in her arms. She was in a depressed community. A few days later, there she was again on the front page, this time eating with her fingers in a similar milieu. Last Saturday, the papers reported that she sang solo and then with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes at a gathering of military personnel. The soldiers, who may have faced worse ordeals, gamely applauded their commander-in-chief.

Shades of Erap! Only the politically naïve will refuse to believe that in doing those unpresidential acts, Ms Macapagal was not politicking. She was, indeed. The hard-nosed observers of the current scene know what her principal motivation is these days. It is her election in her own right as President of the Philippines in 2004.

This obsession must be due to her insecure feeling that she is only a President by constitutional succession. She was elected only as a spare tire, so to speak, and not to the top position in the government. She was acceptable enough as a second fiddle with hardly a chance to succeed the robust-looking Joseph Estrada. Now she wants no less than a direct mandate from the people to be their deliberate and elected choice as President.

Ms Macapagal's present gimmicks were a natural for Estrada but not for her. Erap acted cheap simply because it was in his nature to be cheap. But eating with her fingers and bussing babies are ill suited to President Macapagal, and neither is vocalizing ala Nora Aunor. Her best known gimmick in the 1998 campaign was looking pretty and carrying a rose in posters plastered all over the country. What that rose signified could not have been her competence to be vice president and, if fate should be so kind, to succeed to the presidency itself.

That poster turned me off because it looked so pretentious. It was a none-too-subtle bid for the support of the "Noranians," who rallied behind her although she couldn't sing like their idol and their resemblance was not that close either. In any case, that pretty picture was an effective advertisement that made her the second highest elective official in our government.

As such, she could have been the counterfoil to President Estrada who, despite his immense popularity then, was not all that invulnerable. Her party-mates looked up to her to lead the opposition not only because of her impressive election victory but also of her outstanding intellectual and academic credentials. These were in sharp contrast with the meager qualifications of the college dropout and former movie actor who, by some fluke, had captured Malacañang.

Under the Constitution, the Vice President may be appointed as a department head. The President is not obliged to make such an appointment and neither is the Vice President required to accept it. President Carlos P. Garcia did not appoint Vice President Diosdado Macapagal to the Cabinet; they were from different political parties and the expected rivals in the next presidential election. We can only speculate now if Garcia would have offered Macapagal a Cabinet post and if Macapagal would have accepted it.

President Estrada did make such an offer to Vice President Macapagal, and Ms Macapagal accepted. Unlike her sire, she agreed to be a department head under Erap and thus became his alter ego. Whatever her motives might have been, she allied herself with him in resisting the opposition, of which she was the nominal but not the actual leader. She probably did not realize that in persuading her to sit in his Cabinet, the novice politician (compared to her) had disarmed her.

Even when things began to get uncomfortable for Estrada, she joined the other Cabinet members in affirming their loyalty to him. It was only when Erap's impeachment exposed his many sins to a shocked nation that Ms Macapagal considered a change in her political stance. It could be that her politician's instincts nagged her for continuing to side with the President, who was being discredited by the hour. Maybe and this was a more delicious thought—she was also getting nearer to Malacañang as its chief tenant. In the end, she decided to desert Estrada's sinking ship and belatedly raised the flag of the opposition she had earlier abandoned and betrayed.

The consensus now is that our country's condition has not much improved since she took over at the helm last year. Many people feel she is more preoccupied with her campaigning for 2004 than with the solution of the nation's festering ills. But although they doubt her sincerity, they acknowledge her ability. They believe she is well equipped to redeem our nation from the blunders of the Erap years if she would only focus her attention on her duties and not 2004. The question is when this will happen, if at all.

President Macapagal complained recently that undue emphasis on her visits to various groups in the archipelago was distorting her real purpose, which is to inform herself of their problems for her appropriate action. Of course, she cannot do this by trying to ingratiate herself with the masses through such superficial gestures as dancing with the Igorots. Neither can she blame the media for publicizing and describing her acts as premature electioneering because they are so in fact, no matter how hotly she may deny it.

If she really means to promote the nation's welfare, she should stay put in her office and, removed from the glare of media publicity and distraction, apply herself to the imperative task of leading our country into this new century. This would be convincing proof of her credibility and competence. Succeeding in this endeavor could be her best recommendation to remain in Malacañang in 2004, no longer as an Accidental Excellency but as a duly elected President of the Philippines.

Called, not cold; chosen, not frozen

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

LAST week I was counseling a woman who was in so much pain because of her husband's infidelity. She had forgiven him, she said, but she still could not bring herself to trust him again. It was so hard to make a breakthrough and help her "see the light."

Just then, I received this text message which I immediately shared with her: "The only woman who knows where his husband is, and what her husband is doing 24 hours a day is…a widow!" That did it. She smiled. She saw the light.

* * *

The Gospel today speaks about the people who sit in darkness and who have seen a great light (Mt. 4,12-23) through Jesus' call and message of repentance. God, as it were, never stops to give this light to us, but often it is we who refuse to see the light. God constantly calls each one of us, but often we are cold to His calling. He has chosen us, but often, we remain frozen to His invitation. God's call is permanent: He does not give up on us. God's love is unconditional: He does not stop loving us.

We often fall and stumble, we go astray and sin, but He continues to call us out of our darkness. We can never fathom the patience of God. At any moment of our lives, the door to His heart is always open.

* * *

How then should we respond to God's overwhelming and unbelievable too-good-to-be-true love for us? The disciples immediately left everything and followed Him to become fishers of men themselves. They responded in humility and in obedience.

The problem with many of us is that we hear His call, but we do not have the humility to accept our sinfulness and need for salvation to respond to Him. The other problem is that we do not obey Him simply because we would rather obey our own desires, wants and personal agenda. You are called, but you are cold. You are chosen, but you are frozen. Why? Maybe because you are not humble enough, you are not obedient enough.

* * *

Last Jan. 22, at about 10:30 p.m., I received a phone call from my friend Efren Salvador, an ex-seminarian (XVD) who lives alone with his 75-year-old mother Josefina. In anguish he told me that he just arrived home, and he found his mother dead in her bed. He was shocked and did not know what to do.

After calming him down, I called the XVDs and immediately the group was mobilized to be there with him and assist him. Derek Reyes contacted his neighbors, Fiscal Josephus Asis called his fellow XVDs, and in no time at all he was there with Art Romero, Cesar Lisa and many others. Before daybreak, Mama Josefina was already at Loyola Guadalupe through the help of Roy and Noemi Pastor. It was the XVDs' finest hour, as they lent a helping hand together with their wives and children.

This column salutes Mama Josefina Salvador and many nameless others like her who respond to God's call in a simple, loving and hidden way. Widowed at the age of 35, she singlehandedly raised her three children with much devotion. She helped and guided countless children as a teacher, and after her retirement, as a catechist.

This column also salutes Efren and the many nameless others who care and sacrifice for their parents. His sacrifice, love and devotion to his mother are very inspiring and edifying. When I pointed this out to Efren that night, he broke down and said, "*Kulang pa, Father, kulang pa.* (It wasn't enough, Father, it wasn't enough.)" That's true. We can never love enough. We can never love too much.

You are called to love; don't be cold. You are chosen to love; don't be frozen.

* * *

Prayer rally works! Our Superior General, Fr. Tony Pernia from Rome, and another Filipino SVD, Fr. Provincial Xene Sanchez in Congo, have informed us that Fr. Joyson Kurian, the missionary who was in a coma, as I wrote in an earlier column, is now conscious and is recuperating. Praise God! Thank you for your prayers. Please continue to support and pray for our missionaries worldwide.

* * *

Feb. 2 is the Feast of the Presentation. May the holy candles which will be blessed on that day be a reminder that we are called to keep our light burning for Christ, and to share our light with other people.

How is the flame in your candle? Is it still burning? Is it burning brightly or is it almost gone? Have you lighted up another candle and shared Christ's light with others too? Have you brightened up people's lives?

* * *

I started out this column with a light note about a wife who was always doubting her husband. Just now, I was talking to a husband who is constantly investigated and doubted by his wife. I could feel his pain and his "hell on earth."

We can really make life miserable for others, especially our loved ones. Why don't we just "see the light" and stop hurting people, especially those whom we love and those who love us?

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me not to be cold, because I have been called; and not to be frozen, because I have been chosen. Amen.

From zones of silence

FROM THE NETHERLANDS at the end of 2001 came a breath of fresh air over the tortuous planetary debate on globalization. For the fifth year, awards named after Prince Claus of the Netherlands descended once more on obscure corners of the global community to give recognition to "culture's integral role in development processes."

Aware of the First World's spiritual debt to indigenous cultures marginalized by colonialism, the Prince Claus Fund singles out "rising artists and budding intellectuals" in the Third World "to endow them with a certain degree of prestige and thereby with protection and legitimacy." The fund's cutting edge lies in its special interest in the "assertive elements in a society."

In 2001, the Prince Claus Awards felt an "urgent need" to focus more keenly on "zones of silence." These are "individuals or groups who have something to say but cannot be heard."

True enough, these zones are where energies radiating joy and light to their immediate communities are blocked from full realization at every turn. Their obstacles are as varied as the life stories of the awardees for 2001—ranging from outright political repression to the fixations of mainstream cultures on defensive national boundaries or the consumerist culture churned out daily by the pervasive machinery of economic globalization.

By far the most gripping of these life stories is that of Mehri Maftun, a well-loved musician from Afghanistan's northeastern Pamir region. He sings love and folk songs, classical Persian ghazals and social commentary, accompanying himself on a two-stringed lute, a two-stringed fiddle, and the harmonium. Something of a folk hero to his native Ishmaili Tajik tribe, it did not take long for the whole country to fall under his spell on Kabul TV.

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

But the Taliban put Mehri Maftun's career to an abrupt halt in 1992 when it began to hound and kill "un-Islamic" musicians. But for a brief performance at an Independence Day festival in 1998 on Northern Alliance territory, he remains underground today, awaiting a new government's will to build anew over the ruins, from the rich tapestry of traditions at the crossroads of ancient continental Asia.

Then there's the 54-year-old novelist Duong Thu Huong, born in war, heiress to violence from without and within her native Vietnam. She would have preferred "a life of action," writes the literary critic Phan Huy Duong, turning to writing "when she could find no other way to act." Violence from France, China and America were met and matched by "the ancestral violence of a feudal and patriarchal society against women and the poor, and the totalitarian violence of the ruling Communist Party." Duong Thu Huong's novels—"Beyond Illusions," "Paradise of the Blind," and "Memories of a Pure Spring"—are her "cries of pain." Refusing an invitation to join her refugee relatives in the United States, she stands like a lone stalk in the Vietnamese wind, inviting all to "live freely, with dignity, with magnanimity."

Besides principal awards given to the organizers of the richly multi-cultural Rotterdam Carnival, seven more awards with a cash prize of 20,000 euros were given to these laborers of soul in their respective "zones of silence": the Nigerian poet and former political prisoner Chris Abani; the Cameroonian photographer Samuel Fosso; the journal of cultural criticism, Jahan-e Ketab, in Tehran; the Syrian "oracle of freedom, democracy and human rights" Antoun Maqdesi; the Sudanese modernist painter Ibrahim Salahi; the independent newspaper supplement Talingo in Panama; the writer and literary TV journalist Ivan Thays in Peru; and our own Elena Rivera Mirano, 50, a madrigal singer and visionary musicologist.

Those who know Lennette and her work on the vocal music traditions of Batangas are jubilant at this fresh proof that the best way to subvert the constrictions of Filipino mainstream culture is on the world stage—and not necessarily on Broadway. Lennette has not only captured the history, text and melodies of the ancient songs of the *subli*, originally a fascinating religious festival far antedating the sleek Bayanihan dance with the same name. She also recorded, in her own trained voice, on a cassette that is now a collector's item, heirloom blossoms of the roots of Tagalog culture in extant lullabies and traditional songs of farmers and fisher folk.

International recognition for Lennette's work is gleefully underlined by her collaborating scholar Marian Pastor-Roces: "(Her) recognition of an energetic archaic culture among today's Tagalog flies in the face of the resigned opinion that 450 years of...colonization have left only empty, damaged souls in the Philippines. The work is neither about art, nor about tradition. It is an active agent within an ongoing dynamics: asserting old, sophisticated forms that recreate the modern."

Ala e, nadinig na baga 'yan in Meyor Vilma?

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

A bamboo economy

MY favorite scene in the movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is the confrontation between the warrior Li Mu Bai and the "rebel" swordswoman Jen inside the bamboo forest.

As the two antagonists fly through the air and battle it out on the top branches of the towering bamboo trees, they struggle to keep their balance as the seemingly fragile bamboo branches sway with the wind, filling the air with their musical rustling.

As shot by director Ang Lee, the two look like they're swimming in a sea of green, floating on bright green tides. The scene is a tribute not just to Lee's poetic vision, but to the bamboo's resilience and strength. The graceful swaying at the slightest rustle of wind or the acrobatics of the fighters dramatizes its ability to withstand pressure, bending to accommodate it without breaking.

Asians have long known of these qualities of the bamboo, employing it for a wide variety of uses, most commonly as construction material from boats to houses. The nipa hut, the symbol of the Filipino home, used bamboo in all its major components: floors, posts, stairs, beds and other furniture. And it proved to be the ideal material for tropical homes, allowing cooling air in, and withstanding even the harshest elements like rain and earthquakes. (Besides which, no one was likely to die from the collapse of a bamboo house!)

But a preoccupation with "modern" standards of construction and shelter has led to the neglect of bamboo "technology." Nowadays, new house construction even in remote rural areas has eschewed the graceful bamboo houses for ugly, utilitarian structures made of lumber, concrete and tin roofing.

As "Pinoy Pop Culture" rues: "How does one...promote a bahay kubo-inspired house to a client when we have no infrastructure for this once native object? Not enough bamboo to harvest, not enough technology to keep it bug-free plus the carpenters have forgotten how to handle the bamboo! Result: it's more expensive to make than a concrete house."

* * *

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF a group of businessmen is to be believed, however, bamboo could very well prove to be the cornerstone of the economy, the "engine" for the country's much-hoped for but still elusive economic recovery.

A bamboo-based economy? Not too far-fetched an idea, says the Southeast Asia Bamboo Foundation.

Today, bamboo-growing and other industries based on bamboo and its products already provide income, food and housing to over 2.2 billion people worldwide. According to the Bamboo Foundation, a new bamboo plantation provides a three to five year return on investment compared to eight to 10 years for rattan. Governments in countries like India, China and Burma with 19,800,000 hectares of bamboo reserves collectively, have begun to focus attention on the economic factors of bamboo production.

Best of all, bamboo is a renewable and indeed enduring natural resource. Bamboo can be selectively harvested annually. It is considered the fastest-growing plant, with some species growing up to a meter a day.

More important, greater reliance on and use of bamboo could save thousands of hectares of tropical forests, which may no longer need to be decimated to meet the ever-increasing hunger for construction material.

To increase the bamboo's potential for use in construction, the foundation is tapping the expertise of a Canadian scientist who has conducted tests on bonding and sealing bamboo slats into extremely strong tiles that have been proven resistant to both water and pressure.

* * *

THE FOUNDATION proposes to adapt the technology for the use of bamboo as railroad ties, highway sign posts, beams and telephone poles. These are commonly made from solid wood impregnated with a preservative, but supply has been sharply decreasing due to logging bans in many countries.

In the United States alone, the rail system uses an average of 15 million railroad ties a year just to replace worn-out ties.

This represents a viable market for bamboo technology, the foundation believes, as tests so far have proven the treated bamboo equal in strength to the wooden ties, but exceeding its resilience.

The only problem, they say, is that to meet demand, hundreds, if not thousands more hectares, of land need to be planted to bamboo. "This could be the answer to the problem of rural poverty," attests Val Hemedes of the Bamboo Foundation. They project an income of at least P200,000 per hectare per year over just eight years.

So how about it? The idea of bamboo-led economic growth is tantalizing, but to start the engine, government must get on board and believe it is possible.

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AS part of its campaign to raise public awareness on issues of the sexual exploitation of women, the Women's Education, Development, Productivity and Research Organization (Wedpro Inc.) is launching four books on women survivors of prostitution and sex trafficking. The launch will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at Annabel's Restaurant, Tomas Morato Ave. in Quezon City.

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Written in conversational Filipino, the books come in pocketbook format, designed to appeal to the mass readership of Filipino romance novels.

Seeing the world with American eyes

FROM DAY one since Sept. 11, 2001, America has waged a campaign to make other nations see the world with American eyes, feel its pain as humanity's collective distress, and view the future through the prism of America's quest for justice. And the effort has been successful.

Today hardly anyone can voice a reservation about the US-led war on global terror without appearing to be on the side of terrorism. No one can oppose the bombing of Afghanistan without appearing to justify the acts of Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. No one can protest the infringement of civil rights committed in the name of counterterrorist security without being seen as defending terror. Here in the Philippines, we cannot even question the wisdom and legality of allowing US troops to fight a band of local kidnappers on our own soil without sounding callous about the American couple they've been holding for months. This mood has produced resentful jokes about anti-US student demonstrators and critics being fed to the Abu Sayyaf.

It is a great tragedy when a sovereign nation has to lower its flag to give way to the banner of American grief. It is a sad day when a free people must substitute American outrage for its own sensibility. There must be a way of respecting the memory of those who perished in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks (who incidentally came from many nations) without having to unleash the raw instincts for revenge and punishment in everyone. There has to be a way of defining justice even in the face of the most unspeakable atrocity without having to give up one's critical faculties.

Unfortunately, we seem to be back in the days of Empire when, as Conor Gearty described it in a recent essay, "the rule of law could not be given too much importance: its purpose was to help us feel better about ourselves at home, not to hinder our management of unruly natives." Today's "unruly natives" are all those who resist the official American perspective on global terrorism. They are derided as nationalists who remain in the grip of parochial pride, oblivious to the realities of a world changed forever by Sept. 11, and lacking the worldview to understand that the enemy is one, and its evil tentacles are everywhere.

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

But no worldview can make us see that bandits in Basilan are al-Qaida operatives from the same mold as those suicide hijackers who commandeered the passenger jets in the US on that fateful day of Sept. 11. That their founding leaders might have seen action as fighters in the Afghan war against the Soviets in the '80s does not automatically make them al-Qaida militants. Their recruitment into that war after all had been facilitated by the US itself. To explain the Abu Sayyaf leaders' presence in Afghanistan, one would have to turn to the CIA rather than the Taliban.

Today's Abu Sayyaf members are homegrown criminals, bred by endemic poverty, social marginality and a perverted understanding of the Islamic faith. They are vicious and barbaric, and they deserve to be hunted down relentlessly and brought to justice. But Basilan is not Afghanistan.

Everyone knows that the hardcore Abu Sayyaf members do not number more than a hundred. If the Armed Forces of the Philippines have been unable to subdue them despite the 7,000 troops pursuing them, the problem cannot simply be our soldiers' poor training or inadequate equipment. Whatever it is, it's almost certain that foreign advisers or forces cannot solve it for us. Moreover, we should not forget that the Abu Sayyaf is only one of many predatory armed groups that roam Muslim Mindanao. Their members are not easily distinguishable from ordinary residents, or, more important, from those who are waging a legitimate war of emancipation.

Thoughtful officials of the Philippine government like Vice President Teofisto Guingona know this. They are aware of the many complications that can arise from the involvement of foreign troops in a local peace and order problem that has grown in the womb of a larger socio-political conflict. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was right to reject US President Bush's repeated offer of American Special Forces to help stamp out terrorism in Mindanao. But it is now clear that she was more worried about the legality of US involvement than its wisdom. In allowing foreign troops to be deployed in volatile areas in Mindanao under the cover of military exercises, she exposes the nation to the dangers of escalating the conflict and to the consequences of privileging a military approach to the complex problems of Muslim Mindanao.

It is wrong to think that only a misplaced national pride informs the protest against the US military presence in Mindanao. Such a view ignores the practical wisdom of the nationalist provisions of our Constitution. These are solutions to our historic problems that have evolved over the years, representing the distilled wisdom of our elders. To ignore them is to open ourselves to risks that were familiar to a past generation of Filipinos who trusted and relied too much on a foreign power, and lost control over their own country.

The Constitution is not there just to make us feel good; it is there to make us mindful never to trade the long-term collective interests of the nation for the short-term advantages of an administration.

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Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Disqualification of a Sandiganbayan justice

AS expected, the lawyers of former President Estrada found fault with the order of the Supreme Court creating a special division in the Sandiganbayan to hear and resolve the plunder case against their client and his co-accused.

The new division consists of Justices Minita Chico Nazario, Edilberto Sandoval and Teresita Leonardo de Castro.

COMMENTARY

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The defense panel insists that De Castro, a member of the court division to which the plunder case was initially assigned, should be barred from further participating in the hearing of the case because she does not possess the attributes of an impartial judge.

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For lawyers who regularly appear in court, the disqualification of a judge from a case is often resorted to if they perceive that he has made a pre-judgment on the case that is adverse to the interests of their client. For obvious reasons, no lawyer in his right mind will ask for the removal of a judge who appears to be on his client's side.

But like many well-meaning provisions of the Rules of Court, this procedure for keeping judges above suspicion in the performance of their duties can, in the hands of "skillful" lawyers, be used for purposes other than for which they are originally intended.

Harassment

The motion to disqualify or inhibit is a subtle way of intimidating the judge into deciding in favor of the lawyer who filed it. It is common knowledge in the legal profession that some judges, especially those who had limited trial experience before joining the bench, are susceptible to bullying by high profile lawyers through threats of filing such motions.

Motions of this nature are unwelcome distractions from the judge's work. Not only are they annoying and time consuming, they often wind up on the official records of the judge in the cases where the lawyers pursue them up to the Supreme Court. The judge who wants to spare himself the "embarrassment" of having his performance record examined by the highest tribunal will play it safe by accommodating the requests of the complaining lawyer as much as legally possible.

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In the name of passionately defending the interests of their clients (and their attorney's fees), some lawyers will always find a way to use the law to their advantage, but not necessarily for the cause of justice.

No basis

So what's the beef of Estrada's lawyers against De Castro that they have gone ballistic over her inclusion in the special division that will try their client's plunder case?

Stripped of the legal gobbledygook that has made the legal profession an object of public derision, the deposed president's lawyers think De Castro committed acts that, in their opinion, show that she cannot impartially and truthfully pass judgement on the case. From their point of view, she lacks the "cold neutrality of an impartial judge."

This accusation stemmed from De Castro's instruction to the court bailiff to comply with an earlier order of Justice Anacleto Badoy to escort one of Estrada's lawyers, Rene Saguisag, out of the courtroom when the latter insisted on talking while his fellow counsel, Serafin Cuevas, had the floor.

The incident stemmed from the question as to who has the right to speak for and on behalf of Estrada. When asked who his lead counsel was at that hearing, the former president pointed to Saguisag. But during the discussion on a procedural issue, it was Cuevas who hogged the microphone, a situation that did not sit well with Saguisag.

With two high-decibel lawyers talking at the same time and the discussion not getting anywhere, the court ordered them to take turns at the microphone. When Saguisag insisted on saying his piece without waiting for Cuevas to finish, Badoy ordered the court bailiff to take Saguisag out. De Castro reiterated the order when it was not immediately implemented.

In Estrada's defense lawyers' book, that follow-up instruction constitutes a serious breach of her oath as a judge and therefore made her unfit to continue participating in the hearing of the plunder case.

As if to emphasize the triviality of the ground cited to disqualify De Castro, the Supreme Court simply brushed it off with the statement that it found the objections insufficient.

Part of the game

Complaints by Estrada's lawyers about the graft court's alleged bias and prejudice against their client have already assumed the predictability of a broken record. They shout "foul" whenever their motions or requests are denied. And like clockwork, there is always a TV camera or radio microphone to catch that complaint.

Will somebody please remind them that trials are not "winner-take-all" proceedings? Sometimes, the judge rules against a lawyer's motions or objections, and sometimes he does not.

It's like the game of life: you win some, you lose some. As veteran lawyers often advise their wards, lawyers should go with the flow of the trial and make the necessary adjustments as the parties present their evidence.

The transcript of the hearings on the plunder case shows that the contending lawyers have had their respective share of denials and rebukes. The prosecution had been stopped on its tracks on a number of times when it strayed from the permissible limits in the presentation of evidence. The defense was given a similar treatment whenever its advocacy of its client's interests tended to interrupt the proceedings.

The trial has dragged for more than a tolerable time. The theatrics from both sides have got to stop.

Tomorrow, the special division will take over the hearing on Estrada's plunder case. Except for Nazario and Sandoval, the cast of characters in this unfolding drama is expected to remain unchanged. Hopefully, there will be no more distractions that will stall the determination of the guilt or innocence of the former president.

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From zones of silence

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

FROM THE NETHERLANDS at the end of 2001 came a breath of fresh air over the tortuous planetary debate on globalization. For the fifth year, awards named after Prince Claus of the Netherlands descended once more on obscure corners of the global community to give recognition to "culture's integral role in development processes."

Aware of the First World's spiritual debt to indigenous cultures marginalized by colonialism, the Prince Claus Fund singles out "rising artists and budding intellectuals" in the Third World "to endow them with a certain degree of prestige and thereby with protection and legitimacy." The fund's cutting edge lies in its special interest in the "assertive elements in a society."

In 2001, the Prince Claus Awards felt an "urgent need" to focus more keenly on "zones of silence." These are "individuals or groups who have something to say but cannot be heard."

True enough, these zones are where energies radiating joy and light to their immediate communities are blocked from full realization at every turn. Their obstacles are as varied as the life stories of the awardees for 2001—ranging from outright political repression to the fixations of mainstream cultures on defensive national boundaries or the consumerist culture churned out daily by the pervasive machinery of economic globalization.

By far the most gripping of these life stories is that of Mehri Maftun, a well-loved musician from Afghanistan's northeastern Pamir region. He sings love and folk songs, classical Persian ghazals and social commentary, accompanying himself on a two-stringed lute, a two-stringed fiddle, and the harmonium. Something of a folk hero to his native Ishmaili Tajik tribe, it did not take long for the whole country to fall under his spell on Kabul TV.

But the Taliban put Mehri Maftun's career to an abrupt halt in 1992 when it began to hound and kill "un-Islamic" musicians. But for a brief performance at an Independence Day festival in 1998 on Northern Alliance territory, he remains underground today, awaiting a new government's will to build anew over the ruins, from the rich tapestry of traditions at the crossroads of ancient continental Asia.

Then there's the 54-year-old novelist Duong Thu Huong, born in war, heiress to violence from without and within her native Vietnam. She would have preferred "a life of action," writes the literary critic Phan Huy Duong, turning to writing "when she could find no other way to act." Violence from France, China and America were met and matched by "the ancestral violence of a feudal and patriarchal society against women and the poor, and the totalitarian violence of the ruling Communist Party." Duong Thu Huong's novels—"Beyond Illusions," "Paradise of the Blind," and "Memories of a Pure Spring"—are her "cries of pain." Refusing an invitation to join her refugee relatives in the United States, she stands like a lone stalk in the Vietnamese wind, inviting all to "live freely, with dignity, with magnanimity."

Besides principal awards given to the organizers of the richly multi-cultural Rotterdam Carnival, seven more awards with a cash prize of 20,000 euros were given to these laborers of soul in their respective "zones of silence": the Nigerian poet and former political prisoner Chris Abani; the Cameroonian photographer Samuel Fosso; the journal of cultural criticism, Jahan-e Ketab, in Tehran; the Syrian "oracle of freedom, democracy and human rights" Antoun Maqdesi; the Sudanese modernist painter Ibrahim Salahi; the independent newspaper supplement Talingo in Panama; the writer and literary TV journalist Ivan Thays in Peru; and our own Elena Rivera Mirano, 50, a madrigal singer and visionary musicologist.

Those who know Lennette and her work on the vocal music traditions of Batangas are jubilant at this fresh proof that the best way to subvert the constrictions of Filipino mainstream culture is on the world stage—and not necessarily on Broadway. Lennette has not only captured the history, text and melodies of the ancient songs of the *subli*, originally a fascinating religious festival far antedating the sleek Bayanihan dance with the same name. She also recorded, in her own trained voice, on a cassette that is now a collector's item, heirloom blossoms of the roots of Tagalog culture in extant lullabies and traditional songs of farmers and fisher folk.

International recognition for Lennette's work is gleefully underlined by her collaborating scholar Marian Pastor-Roces: "(Her) recognition of an energetic archaic culture among today's Tagalog flies in the face of the resigned opinion that 450 years of...colonization have left only empty, damaged souls in the Philippines. The work is neither about art, nor about tradition. It is an active agent within an ongoing dynamics: asserting old, sophisticated forms that recreate the modern."

Ala e, nadinig na baga 'yan in Meyor Vilma?

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

A bamboo economy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MY favorite scene in the movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is the confrontation between the warrior Li Mu Bai and the "rebel" swordswoman Jen inside the bamboo forest.

As the two antagonists fly through the air and battle it out on the top branches of the towering bamboo trees, they struggle to keep their balance as the seemingly fragile bamboo branches sway with the wind, filling the air with their musical rustling.

As shot by director Ang Lee, the two look like they're swimming in a sea of green, floating on bright green tides. The scene is a tribute not just to Lee's poetic vision, but to the bamboo's resilience and strength. The graceful swaying at the slightest rustle of wind or the acrobatics of the fighters dramatizes its ability to withstand pressure, bending to accommodate it without breaking.

Asians have long known of these qualities of the bamboo, employing it for a wide variety of uses, most commonly as construction material from boats to houses. The nipa hut, the symbol of the Filipino home, used bamboo in all its major components: floors, posts, stairs, beds and other furniture. And it proved to be the ideal material for tropical homes, allowing cooling air in, and withstanding even the harshest elements like rain and earthquakes. (Besides which, no one was likely to die from the collapse of a bamboo house!)

But a preoccupation with "modern" standards of construction and shelter has led to the neglect of bamboo "technology." Nowadays, new house construction even in remote rural areas has eschewed the graceful bamboo houses for ugly, utilitarian structures made of lumber, concrete and tin roofing.

As "Pinoy Pop Culture" rues: "How does one...promote a bahay kubo-inspired house to a client when we have no infrastructure for this once native object? Not enough bamboo to harvest, not enough technology to keep it bug-free plus the carpenters have forgotten how to handle the bamboo! Result: it's more expensive to make than a concrete house."

* * *

IF a group of businessmen is to be believed, however, bamboo could very well prove to be the cornerstone of the economy, the "engine" for the country's much-hoped for but still elusive economic recovery.

A bamboo-based economy? Not too far-fetched an idea, says the Southeast Asia Bamboo Foundation.

Today, bamboo-growing and other industries based on bamboo and its products already provide income, food and housing to over 2.2 billion people worldwide. According to the Bamboo Foundation, a new bamboo plantation provides a three to five year return on investment compared to eight to 10 years for rattan. Governments in countries like India, China and Burma with 19,800,000 hectares of bamboo reserves collectively, have begun to focus attention on the economic factors of bamboo production.

Best of all, bamboo is a renewable and indeed enduring natural resource. Bamboo can be selectively harvested annually. It is considered the fastest-growing plant, with some species growing up to a meter a day.

More important, greater reliance on and use of bamboo could save thousands of hectares of tropical forests, which may no longer need to be decimated to meet the ever-increasing hunger for construction material.

To increase the bamboo's potential for use in construction, the foundation is tapping the expertise of a Canadian scientist who has conducted tests on bonding and sealing bamboo slats into extremely strong tiles that have been proven resistant to both water and pressure.

* * *

THE FOUNDATION proposes to adapt the technology for the use of bamboo as railroad ties, highway sign posts, beams and telephone poles. These are commonly made from solid wood impregnated with a preservative, but supply has been sharply decreasing due to logging bans in many countries.

In the United States alone, the rail system uses an average of 15 million railroad ties a year just to replace worn-out ties.

This represents a viable market for bamboo technology, the foundation believes, as tests so far have proven the treated bamboo equal in strength to the wooden ties, but exceeding its resilience.

The only problem, they say, is that to meet demand, hundreds, if not thousands more hectares, of land need to be planted to bamboo. "This could be the answer to the problem of rural poverty," attests Val Hemedes of the Bamboo Foundation. They project an income of at least P200,000 per hectare per year over just eight years.

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PUBLIC LIVES

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TALK OF THE TOWN

Juan V. Sarmiento Jr., Editor

Are we losing our sovereignty?

MUCH of the debate on the participation of American troops in efforts to crush the Abu Sayyaf and rescue its hostages—two American missionaries and a Filipina nurse—centers on whether their presence in the country is legal.

Malacañang insists that the presence of more than 600 US troops is authorized by the Visiting Forces Agreement. But others argue that the US soldiers, who are expected to stay in the country up to a year, violate the Constitution, which bans foreign troops in the Philippines, except under a treaty ratified by the Senate.

Besides the legal questions, two former senators, who rejected in 1991 a treaty extending the stay of US military bases in the country, raise other problems posed by the massing of American troops in Mindanao.

They warn against the use of US troops in fighting communist guerrillas and Moro separatists, subservience to Washington, loss of self-respect by Filipinos and perception by neighboring countries that the Philippines has become a US satellite.

PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO
ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

'Beyond the Burnhams and US troops in Mindanao'

Jovito R. Salonga,
Former Senate President

LET US review the relevant facts and analyze the consequences.

1. After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, President Macapagal-Arroyo immediately pledged "all-out aid to the US." Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet, visited Manila and, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, "outlined military plans for using Subic and Clark Field in the global war against terrorism." On the night of Oct. 19, 2001, 26 American "military advisers," including two colonels, arrived from Kadena Air Force in Japan, boarded a bus and 'rode off to an unknown destination.' In a subsequent press briefing in Malacañang, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes revealed that the arrival of US military advisers was "the result of a dialogue between Armed Forces Chief of Staff Diomedes Villanueva and Admiral Dennis Blair, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Command. He described these American advisers as "our dialogue partners in our fight against terrorism." Even at that time, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon asked Malacañang to clarify the nature and purpose of their activities here and warned that "direct or indirect involvement in the conduct of the operations against the Abu Sayyaf or other groups will not be acceptable."

2. During her 10-day visit to the US last November, Ms Macapagal said in press conference in Washington that she had "declined the offer of President Bush to send US troops to help fight Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Mindanao," saying Filipino soldiers were capable and could take care of the Muslim extremists. We applauded her.

3. But as of Jan. 21, as reported in the media, around 660 American soldiers and officers have started arriving in the Philippines. Of this number, 160 will be in Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers and their three hostages, including two American missionaries, are located. Around 200 to 250 will be in nearby Zamboanga, and 250 will be in the Air Force base in Mactan, Cebu, where the air strikes against the Abus will be mapped out.

4. Until the National Security Council meeting of Jan. 23, high officials of the government, including the Vice President and the senators, had been kept in the dark regarding the deployment here by the US of these troops, described by the New York Times (Jan. 17) as "the largest single deployment of US military might outside Afghanistan."

5. By way of legal justification, administration officials have invoked the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) of 1951 and/or the Visiting Forces Agreement of 1999. Let us see whether these assertions are correct.

Under the MDT, an "external armed attack in the Pacific area" against either of the parties would be considered dangerous to its own peace and safety," which may then act "to meet the common dangers in accordance with its constitutional processes." The barbaric kidnapping of the Burnham missionaries (Gracia and Martin) and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap by the Abu Sayyaf mercenaries (all of whom are from Muslim Mindanao and therefore classified as Filipino citizens under our Constitution) is an act of domestic terrorism we should condemn and defeat decisively.

Kidnapping for ransom is a crime against liberty and is punishable under Article 267 of the Revised Penal Code but it cannot possibly qualify as "an external armed attack," even in the guise of "the new US-led war against global terrorism."

Bypassed

In addition, there is a Mutual Defense Board under the MDT, which shall coordinate the activities of the two countries. The Board includes our own foreign secretary, the co-chair, who has been bypassed.

We are now told by Reyes that it is the VFA that applies to this particular deployment. But the VFA contemplates a 1) joint training exercise for a limited period of time, only a few days and not more than a month; 2) which should involve a small number of troops; 3) outside a combat area—as pointed out by pro-VFA senators, led by Senators Biazon and Blas Ople, during the Senate debates in May 1999. Ironically, these senators are now opposed to this huge deployment. Why? Because what we witness now is admittedly different. "It is not a modest number," said US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. This one is "different in size, scope and limitation. It includes special operations forces like Navy Seals and Army Green Berets..."

A senior US official said "the US forces could increase, depending on how the campaign progresses." It could last six months or even a year. (NYT, Jan. 17). They will accompany Filipino soldiers on patrol. If they are fired upon, they will use their arms and defend themselves. Which means that, whatever semantic devices we employ, it is not a "training exercise"—in truth, it is a combat operation by foreign troops on Philippine soil.

This is explicitly prohibited by the 1987 Constitution, except under a treaty duly ratified by the Senate. Article XVII, Section 25 says: "After the expiration in 1991 of the Military Bases Agreement...foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines, except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate..." But none in the Senate, it appears, has been previously consulted. They had been asking GMA to explain and tell them the details of her understanding—its parameters and conditions. How did the US troops come here in the first place? By whose authority? Who invited them here? But now the information is out—a 10-year Mutual Logistics Support Agreement allegedly drafted by the US had been signed by Villanueva and Blair months ago—without the previous consent of the foreign secretary!

Sympathy

We are told by American officials, including Secretary of State Colin Powell, that the two American hostages must be rescued; all they want is to give us additional equipment and training for the purpose. We have nothing but sympathy for the two American missionaries and the Filipina nurse. Many Filipinos, who are not familiar with the Constitution and do not realize the implications of foreign troops here, obviously favor what Powell said. But if the rescue of the two American missionaries is the principal purpose, US troops should withdraw once the rescue is achieved. But that is not what Rumsfeld stated in the New York Times (Jan. 17). The US troops will not go home; they will stay here for at least six months, maybe more. Why the apparent conflict in their statements?

Up to now, US President George W. Bush, who is "personalizing the war on terrorism," has not succeeded in getting his two favorite enemies: Osama bin Laden and Taliban leader Mohammed Omar. Rescuing the Burnhams and crushing the Abu Sayyaf may be easier to achieve. It can be held out as a victory of the US-led war on global terrorism. But for what ultimate aim and at what cost?

Let us consider several possibilities. If by some misfortune and despite our earnest prayers, the Abus kill one of the Burnhams, or kill some American soldiers involved in the rescue, the American public may demand that a so-called training exercise become a real, all-out war on terrorism. In which case, the Philippines may well become the second target after Afghanistan, as a US senator, who was asked to apologize, candidly pointed out.

Escalation

On the other hand, if the Burnhams are rescued due to the valiant efforts of American troops in Basilan, this welcome event may be used as a justification for the escalation and prolonged duration of US military presence, since our government is still confronted by other "hostile" armed elements—the MNLF, the MILF and the NPA, even though they are all Filipinos and are subject to Philippine laws.

In the meantime, AFP officers and men in Basilan, who have exasperated many Filipinos due to their inability to rescue the three hostages despite three self-imposed deadlines, now risk losing their own self-respect. Col. Alexander Aleo, Army commander in Basilan, who took over his post on Jan. 14, said: "If you ask us, we really would rather not have (foreign troops here). But we are not the approving authority."

Unless we take care, what we may have here, as in South Vietnam, is a discredited, demoralized Army that cannot fight Filipino kidnappers and subversives, without US aid and US troops.

The perils of US intervention—obliterating the action of the Philippine Senate in 1991, which ended more than 400 years of foreign military presence in the country, may bring us back to the state of dependency before Edsa I. After Philippine "independence" on July 4, 1946, the US made sure it would continue to shape the political, social and economic developments in the Philippines through its military forces and the unequal economic arrangements it imposed on us.

We couldn't even elect our own president without finding out the preference of Washington. Philippine courts could not even assume jurisdiction over US soldiers and try them for such crimes as rape, murder or homicide, committed against Filipinos right here in our own country. Similarly, under the VFA, our system of justice is obviously not good enough for offending Americans. Under Article 5, any offense committed by US soldiers or personnel, no matter how grave, may be considered "official acts" provided the US commander issues a "military duty" certificate. This was how the US gave immunity to thousands of accused American soldiers from 1947 until Sept. 16, 1991, when the Senate said—"No more! *Tama na, sobra na!*

US policy makers, in the guise of leading the global war on terrorism, may have succeeded in reversing what the Senate did in 1991. For what ultimate purpose? To his credit and after many years of service in government, former President Fidel Ramos has now realized that the US policy goes beyond the Burnhams. In his latest interview with Newsbreak, he said—"It is to maintain a viable presence in Asia Pacific as a means to secure their own interests and their huge investments." Which was why 12 senators said no to US bases in 1991.

What is happening now, including our increasing dependence on the US, may diminish us in our own eyes and influence the attitude of other States, including our Asian neighbors such as China where there are no US troops. They would surely treat us as no more than a US satellite, a nation that has chosen to lose its own freedom of action, independence and self-respect.

'A nation of wimps and pimps?'

Rene Saguisag,
Former senator

I WOULD have thought that those of us who voted "no" on Sep. 16, 1991 on the bases issue, namely, Senators Butz Aquino, Johnny Ponce Enrile, Erap Estrada, Tito Guingona, Teroy Laurel, Ernie Maceda, Orly Mercado, Nene Pimentel, Bobby Tañada, Vic Ziga, Jovy Salonga and I, would forever hold the line. This changed this week as Vice President and Foreign Secretary Tito Guingona, out of character and not wanting to be jobless, supported the unlawful re-entry of foreign troops.

In explaining his "no" vote in 1991, Tito said: "This is a decision to break off from the last shackles of the past. For 500 years, this land has been occupied or dominated by foreigners in one form or another. It is time we come into our own. Time to become truly self-reliant. Time we stood by ourselves in cooperation with others as equals.

Time to end our dependency relationship with the United States of America which it spawns at times to its interest and advantage."

Tito seemed to have been the last one to know. Maybe the title is mine. In the wee hours of last Wednesday, Ambassador Alberto del Rosario was interviewed on Fox News, on Jolo (mispronounced as Joe-Lo) and Basilan (misaccented on the first syllable). I did not learn much from the interview.

Later that day International Herald Tribune's James Pringle described the Basilan situation and the frustrating rescue effort in its Wednesday issue.

"It is a task that 6,000 troops of the Philippine armed forces have embarrassingly failed to do in eight months, despite frequent boasts that their rescue was imminent. The American arrival is seen as a slap in the face for them. There are, the Philippine Army admits, only 80 active members of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, and only 45 in the group holding the three hostages (the Burnhams and Deborah Yap)."

Bribable

This is what the outside world reads as to why the Americans are back in their new plantation, to prevent a repetition of the story where it is said that Filipino "army officers took bribes to allow the (Abu Sayyaf) bandits to escape encirclement last year." The report puts in sad context what justifies the return of the Americans, the bribable Pinoy, in the words of S.P. Lopez. But, as a Bataan veteran, S.P. knew a Filipino of another time.

Today, we read about the ship *Bataan* as being involved in the fight against the Taliban. Winston Churchill, knowing Bataan, supposedly said that the Filipino soldier was the best in the world. Today, the world reads about Basilan and thinks he must be the worst.

Manong Johnny Ponce Ernile fought the Japanese and said on Sept. 16, 1991: "Finally, I am against this treaty because its basic assumption is an insult to our race. I cannot live with a treaty that assumes that without 8,000 servicemen and some passing warships, we shall fall flat on our faces. I cannot believe that the vitality of this country will be extinguished when the last bar girl in Olongapo turns off the light in the last cabaret."

Uncle Jovy Salonga also resisted in World War II and said on Sept. 16, 1991 that the date "may well be the day when we in this Senate found the soul, the true spirit of this nation because we mustered the courage and the will to declare the end of foreign military presence in the Philippines and helped pave the way to lasting peace here and in the world."

Bobby said in 1991: *"Tanggihan natin ang tratadong ito. Tanggapin natin ang pagsubok ng pambansang kasarinlan at kapangyarihan tungo sa kapayapaan. Ngayon Na!"*

In detention, Erap reaffirms his 1991 explanation: *"Kinakailangan po natin ngayon ang magkaisa. Kinakailangan na po natin ang magbuklod-buklod...ng iisang diwa...sa iisang layunin...na iisang paninindigan at paniniwala...na tayong mga Pilipino lamang ang makapagliligtas sa kapwa Pilipino. At kapag nagawa po natin ito, sisikat na muli ang araw sa lupang hinirang.'"*

Butz said the proposed pact would prolong "our colonial, master-slave relationship." Teroy said it was time "that we became even more independent than we really are." Orly called "upon our people to hold firmly and dearly onto national pride and self-respect." Ernie dreamt of "a future free of foreign control (with our nation) standing proudly on its own two feet, scorning the crumbs of the rich and stingy." Nene said a "yes" vote would reaffirm "the state of servility and subservience of our country to the US." Vic said he refused "to sacrifice our national interest in exchange for a bundle of vague promises."

But, GMA sees something in our Constitution and statutes that say that if we cannot deal with 45 rebels or outlaws, why, we nullify the vote of Sept. 16, 1991. Allow me to differ, Without pride, we are nothing. As I explained at the time.

Respect

"But, the issue, to me, is fundamentally about respect. And therefore I cannot vote yes, not even in anger. I know we should do the right thing at the right time. But there is never a right time to do it if costs, not values, obsess us as a people, some of whom have gotten used to the consolations of colonialism and the blessings of dependence . . .

"The rationale (of our 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty) was that the Chinese and the Soviets were our foes. They are our friends today." (It was never our intention to involve Americans in dealing with a few bandits.)

"...Let not history mock and laugh at us that we panicked and got divided because foreign troops were not invading us, but going home after more than 400 years—perhaps a candidate for Guinness, a dubious distinction. *Ano po ba ang gusto natin, limang daan taon?* They are going home to return a piece of our homeland to us, the final vestige of centuries of colonialism, America's last plantation here."

The bottom line is not about money but pride. Foreign equipment, intelligence, material, ordnance, etc., why not? But foreign troops with their raging hormones? Now, we are seen as nincompoops who will do anything for money and the Americans are only here to see to it that it is used properly (such as making bar girls happy as the lights go on again).

Wimps and pimps, that's what we are.

The WORLD

Luvern B. Gueco, Editor

Sharon, aides behind 1982 massacre, says paper

BEIRUT, Lebanon—Slain former warlord Elie Hobeika intended to tell a Belgian court that Israel's prime minister was behind the 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees, Lebanon's leading newspaper reported Friday.

Hobeika—who was assassinated in a Thursday car-bombing—reportedly said he had new evidence that would prove that Ariel Sharon—and not Hobeika—was behind the Sabra and Chattila refugee camp massacres in Beirut, according to a report published in the An-Nahar daily.

"I am fed up with this issue. It's time to reveal the entire truth. It's true I was there (in Sabra and Chatilla), but I did not carry out the massacre. It's Sharon personally and his aides who did it . . . I have documents which confirm this," Hobeika reportedly told an An-Nahar writer last Sunday during a dinner.

Hobeika led the Christian militiamen that massacred hundreds of Palestinian men, women and children in the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps. The militia was allied with Israel, and an Israeli commission of inquiry later found Sharon was indirectly responsible for the killings.

In comments published Friday, Hobeika reportedly said that he had "new and unknown information that will change the view of this case for which they have been holding me responsible for 20 years."

The paper reported that Hobeika had "decided to go to Belgium, perhaps within a few days," to testify before a court where massacre survivors are suing Sharon, who was defense minister in 1982. Israeli troops had controlled access to the refugee camps at the time.

Hobeika and three bodyguards were killed Thursday morning when a remote-controlled bomb destroyed their vehicle near his east Beirut home. Six others were wounded.

A previously unknown group calling itself Lebanese for a Free and Independent Lebanon claimed responsibility for setting the 10-kg bomb, saying in a statement that Hobeika was a "Syrian agent" and protested that nation's influence in Lebanon, where 25,000 Syrian troops are stationed. *AP*

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Bicycle bomb blast kills 5 in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia—A bicycle bomb exploded outside a packed Bogota restaurant frequented by Colombian police at lunchtime on Friday, killing four officers and a little girl in an attack the government blamed on Marxist FARC rebels.

Fourteen other people were hurt in the 12:30 p.m. blast near the restaurant opposite a police station in the working-class Fatima district of Colombia's capital, said Gen. Jorge Enrique Linares, national police operations director.

The government blamed the roughly 10-kg bomb—packed with shrapnel and loaded on a bicycle—on the country's largest leftist guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as FARC in Spanish.

In what police said appeared to have been a failed coordinated attack, officers disarmed a second bicycle bomb—also packed with a 10 kg explosive—outside a police station in western Bogota just after the explosion.

Police found a third bomb hidden in an abandoned shopping cart in another part of the city.

The 17,000-member FARC has stepped up attacks against the security forces and energy and water infrastructure in recent weeks—despite signing a landmark agreement with the government last Sunday to reach a ceasefire deal by April 7.

Colombia is locked in a 38-year-old war pitting the armed forces against leftist rebels and far-right paramilitary outlaws. About 40,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in fighting in the past decade.

The FARC has pledged to bring the country's largely rural war into Colombia's cities to put pressure on the government.

"This is another sign of the escalation of the FARC's terrorist campaign," Defense Minister Gustavo Bell told reporters, referring to the restaurant bomb.

Colombia's leftist rebels often use bombs in urban areas, but no one had been killed by such an attack in Bogota since last May when two car bombs killed four people outside residential apartments lining the city's National University.

After dark, Bogota city officials turned off street andpublic square lights for three-minutes to protest the attack in his Andean city of seven million people.

Rescue workers and heavily armed police who arrived after the restaurant blast sealed off the street, which was littered with shards of glass and chunks of brick.

The girl's small body, covered in a white blanket with blue and orange flowers, lay underneath a white police pickup truck—its windows blown out by the explosion. A soiled school exercise book, with a multiplication table on the cover, was on the ground nearby.

The girl, who police said was about 5, seemed to have beenwalking past when the bomb went off.

Reuters

Musharraf issues appeal for dialogue

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's president offered Saturday to join India in a "serious and sustained dialogue" to resolve tensions that threaten to trigger war between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

"I would like to reiterate our readiness to engage in a serious and sustained dialogue with India to commence together a journey of peace and progress," President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said in a message to Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The message, distributed by the government news agency, was sent on India's Republic Day, when the country marks its 52nd anniversary as a republic.

It followed India's announcement Friday that it had successfully tested a new version of its nuclear-capable intermediate range missile from an island off its eastern coast.

The test came with hundreds of thousands of Indian and Pakistani forces mobilized along the border in their biggest standoff in decades. It drew immediate criticism from the United States, Pakistan, Britain and Germany, which said India should have avoided it at such a tense time.

Musharraf said Pakistan "desires to establish tension-free and good neighborly relations with India."

AP

INDIAN school children wear the three colors of the Indian flag while performing a dance during a Republic Day parade in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta on Jan. 26. India celebrated its 53rd Republic Day with a parade by the armed forces and traditional cultural shows.

REUTERS

King Herod died of kidney disease, says med sleuth

WASHINGTON—Herod the Great, the cruel king of ancient Judea who the Bible says ordered the slaying of the male children of Bethlehem in a failed attempt to kill the infant Jesus, was felled by chronic kidney disease, a medical sleuth said on Friday.

Dr. Jan Hirschmann, professor of medicine at the University of Washington's School of Medicine, came to his conclusions after examining descriptions contained in ancient historical texts of the symptoms Herod was suffering before his death in 4 B.C., the year of Christ's birth.

Hirschmann relied on two separate accounts written by noted ancient Jewish historian Flavius Josephus about 80 years after Herod's death. He said the texts revealed several major aspects of the disease that killed Herod, including intense itching, painful intestinal problems, breathlessness, convulsions in every limb, and gangrene of the genitalia.

The combination of symptoms indicated that Herod, a treacherous and vengeful man who ruled Judea for 36 years at the behest of the Roman Empire, succumbed at age 69 to chronic kidney disease most likely complicated by Fournier's gangrene, a severe infection of the genital region, Hirschmann said.

Experts had speculated that Herod died of complications of gonorrhea or acute syphilis. Hirschmann did not feel those diagnoses explained all the various symptoms. He considered and then discarded Hodgkin's disease and liver disease.

"If one accepts that the information that we got from Flavius Josephus is accurate, then I think it's the most likely explanation by far. I can't think of any other explanation that comes close to answering everything that he had," Hirschmann, also a staff physician at the Veterans Administration Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle, said in an interview.

Hirschmann presented his conclusions at a conference, put on by the US Department of Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System and the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, that involves historical medical detective work.

Since 1995, the conference has examined the deaths of other figures such as Alexander the Great, Ludwig van Beethoven and Edgar Allan Poe. Hirschmann has also done medical sleuthing on his own, speculating last year that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died of trichinosis from eating inadequately cooked pork rather than the long-believed acute rheumatic fever.

University of Toronto religion professor Peter Richardson said Herod the Great played a crucial role in the eastern Mediterranean in the power politics of the Roman Empire.

"He was a client king to Rome, which meant that he could engage in no independent foreign policy but that he could have a free reign internally in his kingdom," Richardson said in an interview. "The Romans liked him because he brought peace and stability to that portion of the region."

Herod made some cultural contributions to Judea as well, including rebuilding the Temple of Jerusalem that later was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. ***Reuters***

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Ex-Enron vice chair shoots self in head

BAXTER

HOUSTON, Texas—A former vice chair of collapsed energy giant Enron, Cliff Baxter, was found dead Friday after apparently shooting himself in the head, police in Sugar Land, Texas, said.

His corpse was discovered alone in his Mercedes, which was parked in a street in Sugar Land in the early hours of the morning, said police spokesperson Pat Whitty.

"Baxter had an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head," she said in a statement, headlined "suicide."

"Baxter was dead at the scene and the sole occupant of the vehicle. A suicide note was found at the scene. There was no apparent sign of any foul play."

Baxter, 43, resigned from Enron in May last year.

The company is the subject of multiple investigations, particularly into questionable accounting, after filing for bankruptcy on Dec. 2—the biggest corporate failure in US history.

Baxter is named as a defendant in two cases related to the Enron debacle that are being heard by District Court Judge Melinda Harmon in the southern district of Texas.

One of the suits was filed only on Thursday by sacked staff over their employee benefits, court documents show.

In another case filed Dec. 26, plaintiffs say top executives used inside information, flouting securities legislation, when they sold their stock for big profits before Enron's downfall.

Whitty declined to say whether the suicide note related to personal or business problems, nor whether the note would be forwarded to any of the Enron investigations.

Jim Richard, a justice of the peace in Sugar Land, said he had ordered an autopsy out of an "overabundance of caution." He did not know when the autopsy might be held.

In an internal memo unveiled by House of Representatives investigators, a senior Enron executive said Baxter had "complained mightily" about some Enron transactions with a related firm, LJM.

The memo was written by Enron vice president Sherron Watkins to the former Enron chair Kenneth Lay, who resigned Wednesday.

Baxter had raised his concerns with former Enron chief executive Jeffrey Skilling, who quit in August last year, said the memo.

"Cliff Baxter complained mightily to Skilling and all who would listen about the inappropriateness of our transactions with LJM," it said.

Enron issued a statement of condolence over the death of Baxter, who had been at the firm 10 years before he resigned.

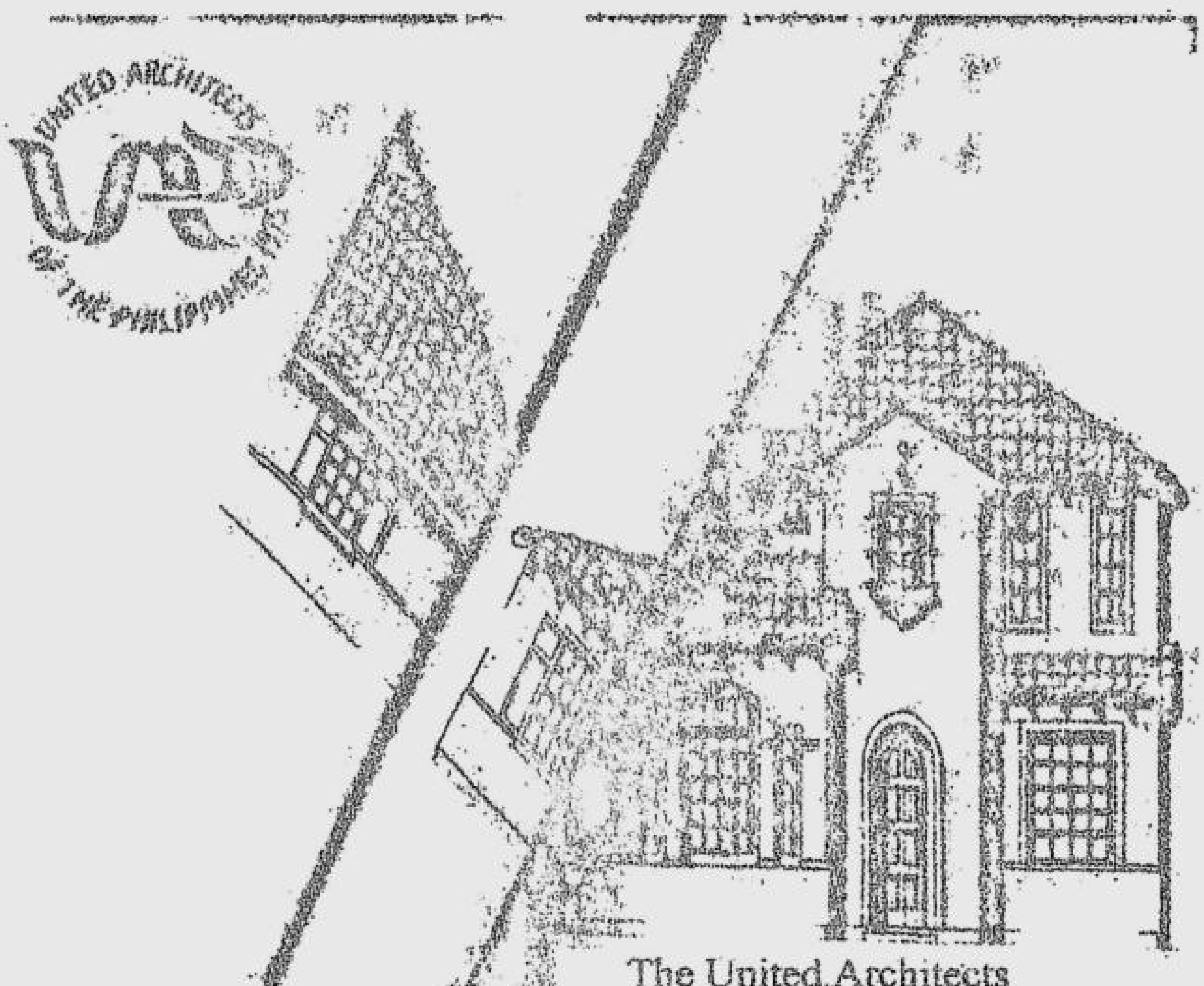
"We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our friend and colleague, Cliff Baxter," Enron said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends."

The energy group revealed large losses in October and the next month admitted it had overstated earnings by nearly $600 million since 1997. It also overstated its equity base by $1.2 billion.

Many Enron staff had their pensions in company shares and lost their life savings while several senior executives made windfall profits by selling shares.

A story in the Houston Business Journal in February last year said Baxter had filed his plans to sell more than 113,000 shares for a potential windfall exceeding $7.8 million.

Before joining Enron, Baxter worked in investment banking and was a captain in the US Air Force. *AFP*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Antique judge turns down Pacificador request

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The Antique Regional Trial Court has denied the motion of the accused in the Evelio Javier murder case for the court to conduct an ocular inspection on the two houses of former Antique Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador.

In a two-page order dated Jan. 15, Judge Rudy Castrojas of the RTC Branch 12 said an ocular inspection was unnecessary at this time to disprove the testimonies of prosecution witnesses Arleen Limoso and Oscar Tiauson that there was conspiracy in the killing of Javier.

"The testimonies of Tiauson and Limoso that Attorney Pacificador, his son Ding (Rodolfo), Attorney (Avelino) Javellana and (Eduardo) Boy Iran met and conferred in the said houses prior to the killing of Evelio Javier, will not be the single factor to be considered by the court," the judge said.

Pacificador, now in jail, is accused of allegedly masterminding the killing of Javier, who was gunned down in broad daylight on Feb. 11, 1986. Javier was then the governor of Antique and an outspoken critic of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos. Facificador, the assemblyman of the province, was a staunch Marcos ally.

The defense panel will not file a motion for reconsideration. "We decided to accept the court's decision to expedite the filing of the formal offer of exhibits of the prosecution," said Javellana, who is representing himself in the case.

The accused had filed the motion on Dec. 15, asking the court to conduct an ocular inspection of Pacificador's houses in Barangay La Paz in Hamtic town and in Sitio Taringting, Barangay Dalipe in San Jose town.

In his motion, Javellana said only an ocular inspection of these residences could help the court determine if Limoso and Tiauson lied in their testimonies.

But Castrojas said in his order that an ocular inspection would only raise more questions because the prosecution was against it and the defense had admitted that changes had been on the two houses.

The prosecution strongly opposed the ocular inspection because it would not serve any purpose as 16 years had passed since the killing of Javier. The conditions of the houses may no longer be the same when the witnesses went there, the prosecution said.

Castrojas also cited financial and security concerns in denying the motion. "The court cannot assure or guarantee the safety of the persons whose presence and participation in the ocular inspection will be necessary," he said.

The judge also pointed out that it was not the appropriate time for the defense to prove their case because it was still the prosecution's turn to present its evidence.

Limoso had testified that Javellana went inside Pacificador's rest house in Sitio Taringting with Iran where the two allegedly stayed from 8-11 p.m. on Feb. 10, 1986, the eve of Javier's killing.

He said he saw Javellana again a few hours after Javier's killing with Rodolfo in Pacificador's house in Barangay Lapaz where Iran and his group went after Javier's killing. Limoso claimed he saw Javellana gave a thumbs-up sign to Iran.

Iran was tagged the leader of the armed group that killed Javier and wounded four others in a daylight attack at the San Jose town public plaza on Feb. 11, 1986.

His whereabouts remain unknown although unconfirmed reports said he was killed or seriously injured in Malaysia two years ago.

Aside from the Pacificadors, Javellana, Iran, Tiauson and Punzalan, also facing the charges are former Philippine Constabulary Capt. John Paloy, Vicente Vegafria, Ramon Hortillano, Henry Salaver, Eleazar Idemne, Rolando Bernardino, and three unidentified persons known only as alias Akay, Nonoy, Totong and Dolfo.

Tiauson testified for the prosecution but was not admitted as state witness because he was previously convicted for robbery.

Punzalan has a pending petition before the Department of Justice to be dropped from the list of the accused.

Soldiers recover arms in encounter

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao—Military operatives on Thursday engaged five of the suspected kidnappers of Dr. Rosemarie Agustin in a "chance encounter" in Barangay Tamontaka here.

There was no reported casualty but government operatives recovered an M-50 machinegun, a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) rifle, ammunitions and subversive documents.

Col. Edcel Soriano, chief of the anti-kidnapping Task Force Sagittarius said the documents belonged to the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces.

Some details in the documents, he said, pertain to kidnapping activities by the group.

The BIAF is the military unit of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is undertaking peace negotiations with the government.

Soriano did not categorically mention the MILF but said the military is eyeing a bigger group in the abduction of the physician.

"But if we have to tie these lose ends, we might end up with a big group that could be involved in the kidnapping of Doctor Agustin," he said.

Earlier, MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghadzali Jaafar said the MILF central committee would impose "harsh sanctions" against members linked to kidnapping.

Jaafar also assured the public that kidnappers would not be allowed entry to MILF camps in Mindanao.

The rebel leader's announcement came after Agustin's abduction on Jan. 15 and amid persistent reports that ranking leaders of the MILF are into kidnapping themselves, or act as protectors of the Pentagon.

In Midsayap, Cotabato, elements of the 40th Infantry Battalion seized a carbine with 40 rounds of ammunition, a .45 cal. pistol and communist documents during a raid in Barangay Makasendeg on Wednesday afternoon.

The raid was part of efforts to rescue Agustin, owner of a hospital in Cotabato City.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, told reporters that they were tipped off about the presence of heavily armed men, who are suspected to be Pentagon members, in the village. ***Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Black Friday' in Visayas hospital

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—More than 300 employees of the state-run Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) here wore black and hung streamers in the hospital premises on Friday to pressure the management to pay the benefits due them last year.

They installed placards at the hospital's premises demanding the immediate release of their longevity pay, monetized leave credits, hazard pay and 14th month pay.

The mass action dubbed as Black Friday protest was the end of a three-day deadline the officers of the WVMC Employees Association gave to hospital chief Dr. Jose Mari Fermin to grant their demands.

Joining the protest were physicians, nurses, midwives, utility workers, administrative personnel, and dieticians, among others.

The members of the association allayed fears of patients that their mass action would disrupt the services of the hospital.

Fermin and Health Assistant Secretary Margarita Galon called for a dialogue on Friday hoping to calm down the restive employees. But the employees walked away disappointed because they failed to get a definite answer when they will receive their benefits.

Fermin said the employees' demands are legitimate but the hospital has "no money due to budgetary constraints." He said the hospital's budget was reduced by P15 million last year and the government's austerity program further slashed P3 million from the hospital's budget.

Jerilinda Miranda, the WVMC accountant, certified on June 4 that the hospital has available savings of P6.7 million to grant the longevity pay.

Fermin said the longevity pay could not be released because the DOH's sub-allotment that comprised the savings was not backed up with cash. He said the Department of Budget and Management also denied their request to pay the longevity pay from the maintenance, operating and other expenses (MOOE) component of the hospital's budget.

The employees said that when the DBM opined that the MOOE could not be used for the longevity pay, the hospital management decided to "divert" the amount to pay its creditors and suppliers.

'Butanding' interaction season opens

By Roly Embile
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

DONSOL, Sorsogon—Alan Amanse, a 33-year–old fisherman, scans the narrow sea-lane of the Ticao Pass through squinted eyes—anxiously praying for the whale sharks, or *butanding*, to break the waves.

As long as he can remember, a large school of *butanding* (*Rhincodon typus*) has unfailingly visited his hometown's seas from January through August.

This time Amanse is worried because few signs of them have been sighted when already half of January has passed.

Unlike most others, Amanse is one of the growing number of fishermen in this town who take the *butanding* seriously and work hard to protect them and preserve their habitat.

He heads a 27-man team of trained Butanding Interaction Officers (BIO) who act as tour guides, safety officers and instructors for people, which consists mostly of tourists, who want to literally get up close and personal with the biggest yet most gentle of all sea creatures.

Most of these dedicated homegrown naturalists are also members of a team of fish wardens who guard the rich fishing grounds of this municipality against the whale poachers and illegal fishers.

Man-shark bonding

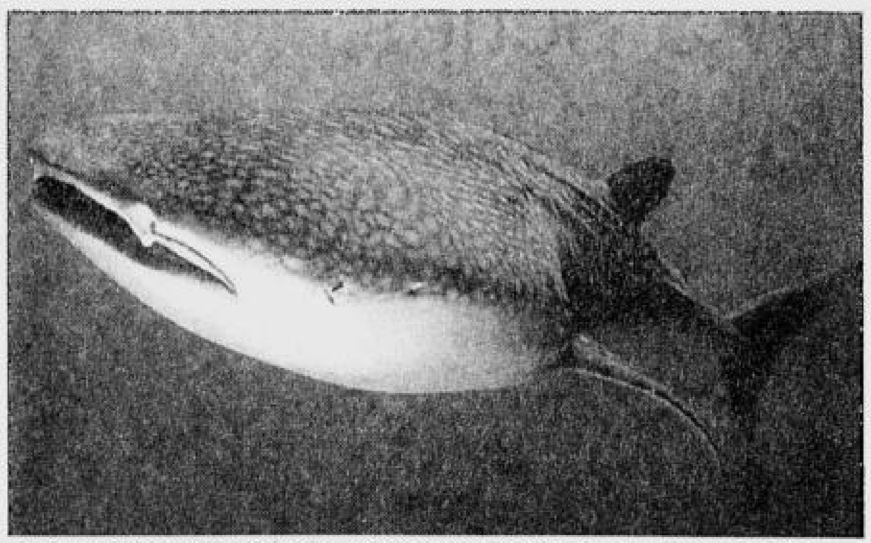
"Repeated interaction with the *butanding* during my years as a BIO and fish warden has forged a lasting bond of rare friendship between us, which was borne out of mutual respect and appreciation of each other," Amanse told the Inquirer in the Bicol dialect.

He said he and his team have, in fact, been calling some of the more popular and friendly whale sharks by name during close interactions, which involve swimming alongside the *butanding* and touching them.

Kulot, for example, is a five-meter long graceful swimmer whose uniquely curly dorsal fin sets him apart from the rest.

Putol, one of the biggest, about 13 meters long and probably the oldest, estimated to be 80 years, among the full-grown regulars, is so called because of its cut upper caudal (tail) fin.

Amanse considers *Putol* as one lucky *butanding* to have reached such an age because the life span averages 100 years and the big cut in *Putol's* tail fin might have been inflicted by illegal poachers," Amanse said.


'BUTANDING': **Whale sharks, gentle giants of the sea are much awaited now in Donsol, Sorsogon.**
FILE PHOTO

Lambing, another 16-footer, tags on a whaling harpoon embedded on its side, a one-meter portion of the steel shaft which remains as the sign of a poacher's attempt to kill the animal.

The word *lambing* is the local term for the harpoon.

Nognog, is an eight-meter long adult, which is Amanse's favorite because like his sunburned dark skin, the gentle sea giant has a skin color much darker than the normal white-spotted blue and gray combination.

Many others of the over 50 regular *butandings* who have come to the yearly feeding season in the fish-rich warm water of the Ticao Pass have been similarly named but distinctions among them often have been confusing and they have therefore not been as popular as the above four.

Ticao Pass is a narrow body of water between the Ticao Island of Masbate and Donsol, Sorsogon, some 553 kilometers south of Manila.

The Department of Tourism, in preparation for the *butanding* season has organized a barangay-based effort to cash in on its tourism potential.

Mary Ong Ravanilla, DOT-Bicol director, told the Inquirer that she has drummed up the support not only of the local government in Sorsogon but also of other known festivals like the Sinulog of Cebu.

She said that at the height of the *butanding* season during the last three years, foreign tourist arrivals in Donsol even surpassed those for the famed Mayon in Albay.

Tourism council

This year, the efforts of the local tourism council and the DOT have gained the commitment of all the barangay councils and non-government groups like the World Wildlife Fund and the Papel ATTBpa promotion outfit.

Ravanilla said the Butanding Festival hopes to make Donsol the *butanding* capital of the world.

She said that in 2000 some 1,339 foreign tourists, who paid the local government P300, each came to see the *butanding*. The year 2001 registered a slightly higher number of arrivals among foreign visitors, totaling 1,388.

Filipino tourists, who paid a much lower P100-registration fee, were generally not tallied.

Interaction with the whale sharks necessitates renting four-cylinder powered boats for P1,800 for a half–day trip, P200 for the local spotter, and P500 for the Butanding Interaction Officer.

Ravanilla said some marine sports competitions like kayaking; mountain biking, camping, and field trips to caves and historical places have been proposed as alternative activities during this year's festival.

Protection

As early as 1998, the provincial government of Sorsogon had pledged to protect this newfound source of income.

During the peak of the *butanding* season between January and May, officials here claimed, a part of a large pod of 50 to 60 whale sharks converges on the mount of the Donsol River.

This phenomenon has also been observed not only in the waters off Donsol but also in adjoining towns of Pilar, Castilla and Magallanes and as far as Barcelona, Prieto Diaz and Bacon on the other side of the Sorsogon peninsula.

But the ability of the local governments and several non-government groups to regulate interactions and protect them against poaching will be put to test again.

It was feared that with every one wanting to cash in on the tourists, the situation could get out of hand.

Already some experts, like Dr. Scott Eckert, a senior research biologist of the Hubbs Sea World research Institute of San Diego, California, had warned officials here that the animals have exhibited some disturbing levels of stress which he blamed primarily on people.

Eckert warned that the whale sharks might altogether shun their usual feeding grounds in Bicol and go where the water is free of human interruptions.

When this warning goes unheeded, according to Amanse, he and hundreds of other Donsolenos will not only lose a livelihood but some of their dearest friends.

Pinoy families need P13,000 a month to live

DAVAO CITY—The national per capita poverty threshold has increased to P13,823 or 22 percent more than the 1997 ceiling.

In its latest report covering the year 1997 to 2000, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) said that because of the increase in the poverty threshold—the amount required to satisfy food and non-food basic needs—the percentage of poor Filipinos also increased by 1.9 percent from the 1997 level of 31.8.

Based on the NSCB data, 33.7 percent of about 70 million Filipinos are considered poor.

The report said the number of poor families reached 5.1 million in 2000, up by 628,414 families or 14 percent higher than in 1997.

The sharp increase in poverty incident was more evident in the urban areas, according to NSCB.

From 17.9 percent in 1997, the poverty incident in urban areas rose to 19.9 percent in 2000.

Those in the rural areas were not spared either.

The poverty figured in non-urban areas worsened by 2.5 percentage points from 44.4 percent to 46.9 percent.

But in the Cordillera Autonomous Region, the poverty incidence went down by 5.9 percent.

The NSCB also said the subsistence incidence or the proportion of families with per capita income below the food threshold increased from P7,710 in 1997 to P9,183 in 2000, up by 19 percent during the period.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao exhibited the highest increase in subsistence incidence by 7.8 percentage points from 27.7 percent in 1997 to 35.5 percent in 2000, the NSCB report said.

In contrary, CAR posted the highest decrease in subsistence incidence from 24.9 percent in 1997 to 18.0 percent in 2000. ***Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Camarines crimes up

NAGA CITY—The slight increase of four percent in crime incidence last year compared to year 2000 topped the list of the Philippine National Police's concerns in Camarines Sur amid growing threats from bandits sowing terror in several towns of the province. Supt. Arne M. de los Santos, Camarines Sur police provincial director, reported that criminality in the province increased from 1,280 cases in 2000 to 1,339 in 2001. De los Santos singled out the insurgency problem as the biggest threat to the peace and order of Camarines Sur. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Worker pinned to death

MAUBAN, Quezon—A helper in a road construction project here was pinned to death when one of the heavy equipment vehicles he was riding in fell into a cliff along the provincial highway in Sitio Cruz, Barangay San Isidro here. Police identified the victim as Rodel Gaden, 27, resident of Barangay del Carmen and an equipment aide working for the China Harbor Engineering. One of the firm's road construction equipment lost power as it tried to climb its way up the road, causing it to fall into the ravine and pin the victim on board. The equipment operator escaped after the incident. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Old man dies in mishap

PAGBILAO, Quezon—An old man who tried to cross the Maharlika Highway died after he was hit and bumped Friday morning by a passing L300 van in Barangay Silangang Malicboy here. Police identified the victim as Elisalde Marin, 60, and resident of the place. They said the cruising van driven by Jose Antonio Elardo, 27, resident of Barangay Gulang-gulang in Lucena City, was going in the direction of Atimonan town when it hit the victim who was crossing the highway. Marin was pronounced dead on arrival in the nearby hospital after sustaining multiple serious injuries in different parts of the body. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and the eastern sections of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI31° Lo20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 22° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 16°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI309° Lo 22°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research/01/27/02

Friends, kin remember Fr. Louie

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Redemptorist priests, family and friends of the late Fr. Luis "Louie" Hechanova on Friday commemorated the first death anniversary of the activist-priest who had been a defining figure of religious and social activism during the martial law years and the Estrada administration until his death on Jan. 25 last year.

Some 12 Redemptorist priests from different parts of the country and more than 35 friends and family members of the landed Hechanova clan held two masses and a dinner on Friday here in memory of Father Louie who died of heart attack at the age of 61 in Manila.

Homilies by Fr. Sinforoso Padilla of Our Lady of Montserrat Parish in Father Louie's hometown of Jaro and that of Redemptorist priest Ramon Fruto focused on the late activist-priest being a "man of action" who had a deep and abiding love for the poor and the oppressed.

"Father Louie's social work was an expression of his faith and commitment to the gospel. He was impatient for change and was a visible expression of what the Redemptorists were doing for justice and peace," said Father Fruto, vicar who took over in 1985 as Father Louie's successor when the latter was elected Consultor General of the Redemptorists in Rome.

Prior to his stint in Rome that had him assisting the Superior General over all Redemptorists worldwide until 1999, Father Louie was the Provincial Superior of Cebu province that covered the Visayas and Mindanao.

Anti-Marcos

A staunch anti-Marcos priest, Father Louie's position of leadership and activism further strengthened with the abduction of another Redemptorist priest, Fr. Rudy Romano, on July 11, 1985 in Barangay Tisa, Cebu City.

The two men were active in championing the cause of the oppressed. Father Romano was with the Visayas Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace while Father Louie was with the National Secretariat for Social Action and was its executive secretary in 1976.

After Fr. Romano's disappearance, Father Louie took to the streets and began publishing a newsletter that exposed the excesses of the Marcos regime.

"Whatever he was, he was working against martial law. He was vocal; spoke out and got away with it," said Father Brendan Kelly, Father Louie's immediate successor as the provincial superior of the redemptorist province of Cebu.

Fr. Kelly, a native of Ireland, said one of Father Louie's major contributions was helping the Philippine Church awaken to its social responsibility.

"He had a great pride in being Filipino. You could see it in his writings and teachings. He had a deep sadness when he saw the sufferings of his people. He would ask 'In what way can I respond?" said Father Kelly during a dinner for family and friends at the St. Clement's church compound in Lapaz District.

"Father Louie's Angels" were also present at the priest's first death anniversary. Norma Borromeo, Fanny Ramos and Venus Flores planed in from Cebu just to attend the anniversary.

The three, with Father Louie as their leader, were instrumental in running Goodwill Industries in Cebu that was formed 20 years ago at Father Louie's instigation.

A rehabilitation and training center for paraplegics trainable for work, Goodwill Industries-Cebu now has 270 handicapped people assembling car harnesses and wirings for companies such as Ford, Honda and General Electronics.

An international organization that has affiliates in 43 countries, Goodwill-Cebu now has three buildings with one inaugurated on Oct. 2 last year and was named "Fr. Louie Hechanova Hall."

"He was an encouragement to us because we saw his intense commitment and genuine interest in the people," said Borromeo who is active in Cebu's socio-civic affairs.

People who loved Father Louie have not stopped being active themselves, in his name—launching yesterday the Fr. Louie G. Hechanova Foundation and his book of essays "Church Politics and Transformation" at the Titus Brandsma Center in Quezon City.

The same book will have its Cebu launching on Feb. 9 at the Cebu Redemptorists compound.

"We remember Father Louie for the three great loves of his life. God, family and country—and that love was very strong," Father Kelly told this correspondent by the time the dinner in memory of Father Louie ended.

Bishops plan Pope's visit

TAGAYTAY CITY—The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines will finalize plans for the next visit to Manila of Pope John Paul II in its 84th Plenary Assembly which started yesterday at the Betania Retreat House here.

The CBCP Monitor, the official CBCP publication, said that the Papal visit would highlight the 4th World Meeting of Families in Manila sometime next year.

The Monitor, said the preliminary discussions were led by CBCP President and Cotabato Archbishop Orlando B. Quevedo, OMI, Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi, OP, and Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, who were among the Synod Fathers who attended the Synod of Bishops.

Quevedo, according to the CBCP Monitor, will preside over the 84th Plenary Assembly, Jan. 26-28.

The Bishops are expected to tackle during the assembly an agenda focused on reports and updates in the implementation in the diocese and in the CBCP commissions and offices, of the nine pastoral priorities identified during the National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal held a year ago.

The bishops will also discuss and probably finalize the draft of a catechism on the New Age Phenomenon.

The 3-day assembly will be capped by a Press Conference at the CBCP Media Office tomorrow afternoon, the CBCP paper said. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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The stiff price of poverty at Lawingan

By Maria Cecil B. Laguardia
Zamboanga City

IT IS farfetched they have heard sinister words like "collateral damage" or "strategic alliance" that sprouted like mushrooms after Sept. 11 last year. Even if they did, they surely would not care, much less exert effort to understand. They are up to something more urgent that hounded them and their ancestors for ages: "Kapigaduhòn ug walay edukasyon" (poverty and lack of education).

In contrast to its people's desolate condition, Barangay Labuan is picturesque. The lapping waves and brown-skinned children's reverberating laughter, as they frolicked in the sea, punctuated the serenity of the morning. One of Zamboanga City's 102 barangays, it is more than an hour away by bus or van. Despite the stifling heat and the cramped seats, the trip is worth it. Aside from the absolutely cheap lanzones flooding the market at that time (P20 per kilo), the view along the way varied delightfully from rural to urban setting.

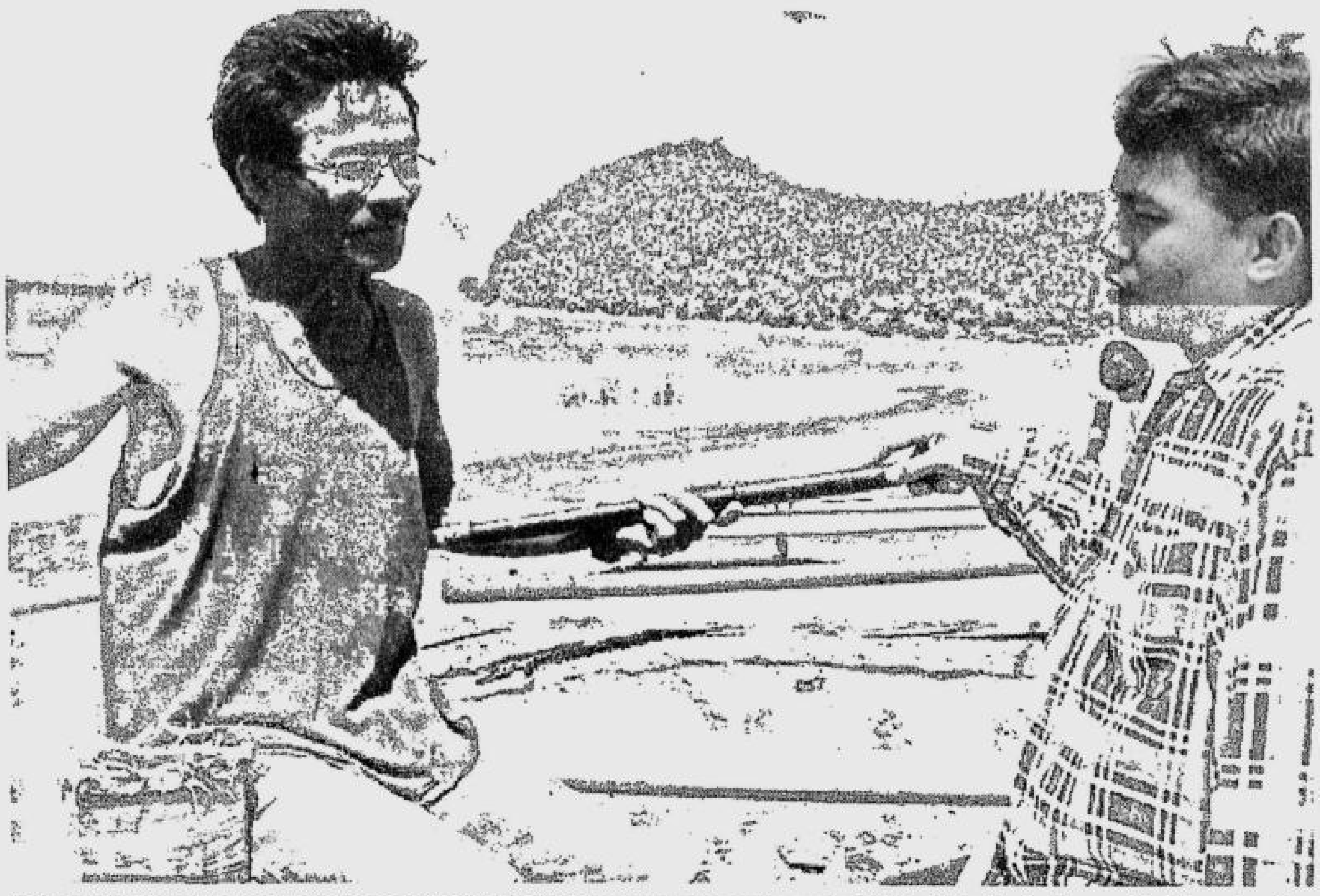
In a moment, the landscape changes from congested commercial stores, processing plants, warehouses, military checkpoints with their camouflage-painted sandbags (a military fashion statement?), to rejuvenating acacia and coconut plantations. Add to that a wooden beach house or two peeping from lush greenery.

Then there is the limitless view of the sea, and beaches teeming with raucous Sunday crowd out to unwind a week of dreary office grind.

Abdul Muhammad and Boyong had lived in Labuan since the 1950s. Since they have no land of their own, Mr. Douglas Alvarez, a Filipino-Spanish land owner, has generously allowed them to build temporary dwelling in a space near his own house and has permitted them to live there for as long as they want. So they did, for five peaceful decades now.

They are not worried about the war. "*Wala gubot dinhi (There is no war here).*"

What they are deeply concerned about is poverty. Most of the residents of Lawingan (one section of Labuan) are Muslim Samals who rely mainly on fishing as their means of livelihood.


ABDUL Muhammad demonstrates to coordinator Bebot Frayco how to use an improvised fish bait. In the background is Labuan's miles-long beach. MARIA CECIL LAGUARDIA

"*Naningkamot man mi pero unsaon man, pigado gihapon* (We tried our best but what can we do, we're still poor)."

Changes

Years back, there was no problem. The fishes were plenty. In fact, they remember how fishes would swarm near the seashore and the residents nearby would have enough food on their tables for days and weeks, until the next batch comes along. Now, things have drastically changed. They have to venture several miles in the open sea and contend with the dangers to earn a meager living.

They are also up for stiff competition. Right on their very noses, big commercial fishing boats from the city and as far as Bacolod would compete with small fishermen in catching the dwindling fish supply in the area.

Muhammad and Boyong cannot help but wonder if there is such a policy against unfair competition of this kind. Small fishers like them do not have a chance.

Insecure as they are of their lack of education, all they did was refer the problem to the local officials who in turn helplessly admitted they cannot do anything because "there was no evidence."

BOYONG Tarungan, right, relives how he was robbed of his boat in the open sea. MARIA CECIL LAGUARDIA

Muhammad and Boyong wondered if it would make a difference if someone from the tribe had a higher position, "but most of us have no position in society" who can fight for their rights.

When asked about the life of a fisher nowadays, Muhammad readily answered in Visayan "*Tsamba kanunay ang pag-adto sa lawod* (Going out to sea is always tough luck)."

They leave as early as four in the morning and get back as late as seven at night. They fear for storm and pirates when they are out in the open sea. Boyong once had a brush with one group. It was good he was just made to leap out of the boat. They took his boat and its engine away.

Their neighbor Hanina Husain, a Samal widow, was likewise unfortunate. Their boat was allegedly bumped by a commercial fishing boat and was damaged. It has never been used for fishing since then, and Hanina has had to accept laundry jobs to support her family. Asked if they complained, Hanina said they did but no action came out of it and this she had accepted because "*mahirap lang kami* (we are poor)."

On a luckless day, they earn a gross income of at least P200 ($3.92). When gasoline and other expenses are deducted, what is left is barely enough for a day's meals for the family. On a very good day, they get a gross of P500 ($9.80) but that comes few and far between. They have incurred a loan to buy their own pump boats from the nongovernment group Community Economic Ventures (CEV), but have faulted on their monthly payments.

Muhammad has eight children to feed, while Boyong has three. To augment Muhammad's income, his wife Carmelita sells dried fish on weekends at the public market. There would be nothing left to even fix the leaking cogon roof and crumbling walls of their one-room houses.

Dreams

What Muhammad dreams of desperately is for his children to finish school. His eldest daughter Rowena, who is a fifth grader, vows she will not get married early just like her mother and father. She wants to be different and become a teacher someday. Her father feels she can realize that dream because she has "determination." Of his eight children, only three are in school and they will probably quit when fish catch continues to dwindle.

On the road out of Lawingan, Samal mothers were on their way home from a livelihood program seminar being conducted by an NGO, Love Your Neighbor Inc., through the support of the Special Zone of Peace and Development (SZOPAD). The program aims to give the Samal women an alternative occupation like *banig*-making, dressmaking and others that will tap their skills and creativity.

Rev. Victor Abillo and his wife Flor team up to help increase the women's earning capacity, and make them productive. The women are not just excited, they are ecstatic that this will pave the way for a better life for all of them.

Muhammad's wish for the residents of Lawingan is simple: good health and opportunity to provide the basic needs of their families. Given the chance, he will get it.

Trainer jets make widows

DUGONG MINDANAW

1Lt. Li-an F de la Cruz

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. **– ED.**

"*MARAMI na ba kaming ganito sa Air Force?*" This was the first question asked of me by the 28-year-old wife of my classmate, 1Lt. Raymond Brian "RB" de Guzman, when I approached her to offer my sympathy. She wanted to know if there were also other Air Force wives who could empathize with her situation as a young widow.

When I nodded, she heaved a deep breath and caressed her bulging tummy. She still couldn't believe her husband was gone because she said it was only recently that she and her husband decorated their new quarters at Basa Air Base. They were so excited about the interiors they readied, in time for the arrival of the family's firstborn.

Indeed, the S-211 Augusta trainer jet have made two widows (who are incidentally both pregnant) out of my classmate and my upperclass' death.

RB would have been a very proud father next month when his wife gives birth to their first child and the first grandson of the family. But unlike most fathers, my classmate could no longer see, cradle and hear the first cry of his baby when the baby comes to this world. Much as he would have wanted to complete his family picture, it would no longer be possible.

The wife of my upperclass Leo Maurice Ramos, whom our class called LML, is also three months heavy with their second child.

Unlike another classmate, Mary Grace Baloyo, he would not have asked for an ice cream from anyone. Instead, the joyful sight of his firstborn alone would have been more than enough for him to savor.

I am writing this piece as my classmates and myself await the remains to be airlifted by helicopters from Basa Air Base. I know it would be not be a pleasant sight for a class reunion. In fact, a classmate once remarked in March last year that it was unfortunate that the class members usually get together only during funerals. I would like to believe that this isn't so.

Raymond's death in a plane crash last Jan. 14, along with my upperclass, was the third death to hit our class. We lost our first classmate, Rodel Zaldivar, almost two years after graduating from the Philippine Air Force Flying School in December 1997. Rodel died in a Huey helicopter crash in Cagayan de Oro in February 1999.

My female classmate, Mary Grace, met her tragic death in March last year after the OV-10A plane she piloted crashed in Floridablanca in Pampanga. She was a colleague when the AFP was still in the thick of its operations against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao.

Back at the Flying School, we were always told by our elders, who are senior officer-pilots, to be extra cautious when we were on our third and fifth year in flying. A theory that they said has been proven by statistics. A number of pilots have died during these times.

This early, we were still unaware of the real cause of the crash. Whether it was a human error or material factor, we do not know. What we probably know is that they were on that plane for a flight.

Yes, my classmate's father had said that the Air Force has in its inventory antiquated air assets that have been there even before all the members of our class have been born. Was this the cause, we are not sure, although it would have had a big difference if the pilots were flying an aircraft from a new fleet of trainer jets.

Even before my classmates were assigned to the 5th Fighter Wing, where the F5 and S-211 jets were, they were overly optimistic that the modernization program of the Air Force would take place in their time. I am not even sure if they would still be around to see the realization of such program.

***1Lt. Li-an F. de la Cruz**, 28, was* INQUIRER*'s former correspondent, covering Davao City, before becoming a Philippine Air Force pilot.*

Indonesia's 'Lord of the Ring'

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Contributor

ONE day while waiting for a bus bound for Davao City at the Butuan City terminal, I was approached by a male hawker and secretly showed me a small item on his palm. It was a square plastic containing a strange round object.

I curiously looked at it and asked what it was. In whisper, afraid someone else might hear him: "Sex ring, P35 *lang*," the hawker said.

Not interested, I gave a sour smile and dismissed him.

When I reached Davao seven hours later, I sat on the row of seats to wait for the bus to General Santos City.

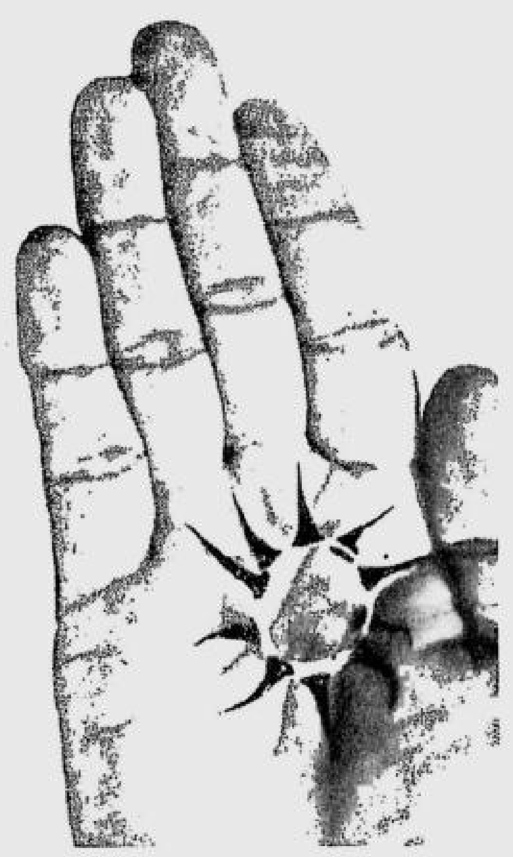
A newspaper boy came in front and dangled the same thing.

When I asked him how much, he said P35. I retrieved my wallet in my pocket and signaled him to sit beside me. His face eagerly lightened up. I began bombarding him with questions.

Is it good enough? Yes, it's strong. It looks small. It will expand. Have you tried it yourself? He gave me an embarrassed smile. Why are you secretly selling it? It's prohibited. By whom? The police. Oh? He nods.

I need not ask where it came from because its packaging has the marking: "Midnight Warrior, Made in Indonesia."

If you don't know what a Sex Ring is, it's a round plastic ring with octopus-like tentacles. This so-called "machine" is inserted in the male organ while making love and is supposed to tickle and put the women in seventh heaven.


The 'Lord of the Rings' is being sold at only P35 in Davao City. BOB TAN, PHOTO WORLD

The feeling, the men say is electric especially for the women who insist they (men) use it. But critical women and men too—are questioning the medical implication of it, more so for the women. They worry about wounds and bruises that will lead to infection. A medical practitioner says it is definitely not advisable.

Sex rings are most likely sold in many bus terminals in Mindanao. Asked if there are a lot of male takers, the young hawker smiled deviously and said, "even women buy it."

Truth or fiction, who can tell?

Joker: GMA's too much

From page A1

anti-riot police.

Yesterday, activists of all persuasions formed "the mother of all coalitions," which will launch a series of protest actions on Jan. 30, the formal opening of the Balikatan "war games."

Tentatively named "Gathering for Peace," the coalition is headed by former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, Nini Quezon-Avanceña, Roland Simbulan and Ma. Socorro Diokno, who have led the opposition to the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement as well as the continued stay of the US bases.

The coalition also plans to conduct signature and text campaigns, symposiums and forums, a media campaign, networking and lobby work, and, possibly, to mount a legal challenge before the Supreme Court.

"All of us are alarmed by this development," Tañada said at the coalition launch at the Quezon City office of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), of which he is president. "What was gained in 1991 (when the Senate voted to kick out the US bases) is in danger of being lost."

Ric Reyes of Akbayan agreed, saying: "An important gain of the nationalist progressive movement is being threatened. It behooves those who fought against the bases to protest the recent intrusion to our national sovereignty in the guise of a military exercise."

Out of the blue

Arroyo conceded that in upholding the US military presence, the NSC somehow "skirted" the constitutional ban by saying that the Americans would not take part in combat but stay at command posts merely to advise the Filipino troops.

He said this should have set matters to rest and ended the debate on a very sensitive issue.

"But out of the blue, the President . . . unnecessarily resuscitated and reopened what had otherwise been skirted," he said in his statement.

He told the INQUIRER that it was "so unnecessary" for her to say that.

"She's provoking us," he said. She's telling us *na tama siya at pinagbibigyan lang niya kami* (that she's right and that she's just humoring us)."

But what worries Arroyo is the implication of the President's statement.

"The President thinks she already has the license to do anything," he said.

TAÑADA: Alarmed

"The danger there is if she changes her mind, she can unleash the US troops because she feels there is no more constitutional restrictions and she has the constitutional mandate," he added.

Nevertheless, Arroyo, who was a member of the prosecution at Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial, said he was not bolting the administration coalition.

"I will remain with the administration, but it is also my duty to point out excesses in this government," he said.

In his statement, Arroyo pointed out that "the question from the very beginning centered on the constitutional issue," and "never" on policy.

"In fact, even those concerned with a possible constitutional infringement welcome US help, provided a way could be found that would not offend the Constitution," he said.

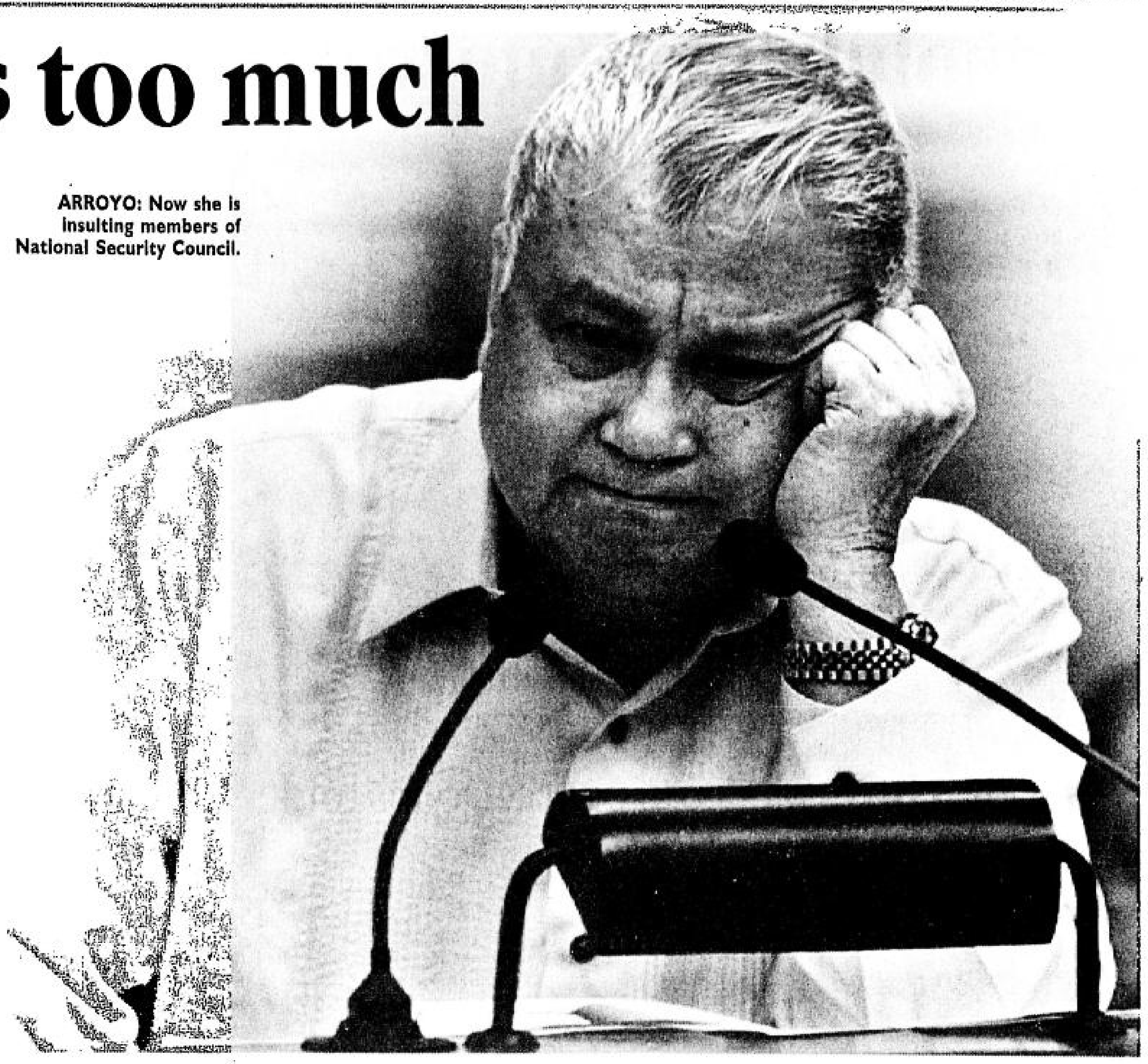
But the President "cavalierly portrayed as constitutional ignoramuses those who worked hard to resolve the constitutional question raised over the use of US troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf terrorism," he pointed out.

"She proclaimed with finality that it was constitutionally permissible for the government if the President so wished to allow the US troops to combat the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

"This is too much," Arroyo said, adding that the President made fools of those who had agreed, despite their misgivings, to support the presence of US troops in Mindanao.

39 groups

The 39 groups at the launch of the "Gathering for Peace," represented the national democrats, social democrats, popular democrats, religious groups and women's groups.



ARROYO: Now she is insulting members of National Security Council.

These included the party-list group Akbayan, militant groups like the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Sanlakas, and Bisig, Kalayaan, Alab-Katipunan, Padayon, Kaakbayan, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Ateneo Human Rights Center and Task Force Detainees.

Peace Camp, itself a coalition of around 50 groups, was also present. Even the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas was represented.

Among those spotted were Walden Bello of Akbayan, Renato Reyes of Bayan, JV Bautista of Sanlakas and Joel Rocamora of the Institute of Popular Democracy.

At some point in the history of the local progressive movement, some of those in attendance had worked together in one group or another. But most have since parted ways, especially after the 1992 breakaway of the Manila-Rizal committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and formed their own groups.

Most, if not all, of these groups were active in the ouster of Estrada.

A number of those present expressed elation over the apparent unification of the progressive forces on the issue of the US military presence.

Tañada said he was "happy" that "most of the organizations belonging to different political (persuasions) are present."

"It's the compelling nature of the issue at hand," Akbayan's Ric Reyes said. "We are happy that all the strains of the progressive movement are coming together. We hope there will be better coordination now than in Edsa II among all the groups. This meeting has good potential in trying to bring together all the different groups."

Still, "the usual problems" were noted, "like there are some groups who want more media projection for themselves, and the differing attitudes" toward the Macapagal administration.

Bayan's Renato Reyes expressed "reservations" toward any formal structure that the coalition intended to put up.

Nonetheless, Diokno said that the coalition would "welcome working with everybody," and that "we respect everyone's position."

Later, she said: "If (pro-Estrada groups) agree with our principles and follow our structure, they are welcome regardless of their politics or status in society."

Not ouster

During the discussion, Tañada noted that the public tended to agree with the idea of using American forces against the Abu Sayyaf.

"That is why we have to intensify public education of the issues," he said.

Simbulan pointed out that the presence of US troops had become an "explosive issue" for the administration, citing the recent Stratfor study saying that this could lead to the President's ouster.

"Many groups here were with the anti-Estrada movement," Simbulan said. "It's again galvanizing the different sectors. If this will drag on, it will backfire on President Macapagal-Arroyo and the US."

However, Tañada was quick to say that the President's ouster from office was not "being talked about."

He said the coalition's position was that the deployment of US troops in Mindanao to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf was not "the best solution" to the problem.

"We doubt the constitutionality of the deployment," he said. It's illegal, and its wisdom is also being questioned."

Tañada also said the presence of the US troops could provoke a wider Christian-Muslim conflict in Mindanao.

"We have to ask ourselves why the military has not succeeded (in going after the Abu Sayyaf)," he said. "Is it the lack of equipment, or does it have something to do with what is being investigated in Congress?"

He was referring to accusations that local officials and military officers were in collusion with the Abu Sayyaf in exchange for financial benefit.

"If this thing being investigated is the cause, we should get to the bottom of it and the government must take the necessary steps," Tañada said. "In other words, it is the political will that is lacking. We believe our military can solve the problem." ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

US presence good for tourism—Gordon

From page A1

sues in Mindanao," Gordon said in a press statement.

"The move will buoy tourist confidence in the country," he added, noting that the country's stock market has been steadily recovering.

Foreign fund managers have been pouring billions into Philippine stocks since the US troops began arriving.

Gordon said he would brief his Asean counterparts in the forum about the rationale of the controversial "Kalayaan-Aguila 2002" war games in Mindanao.

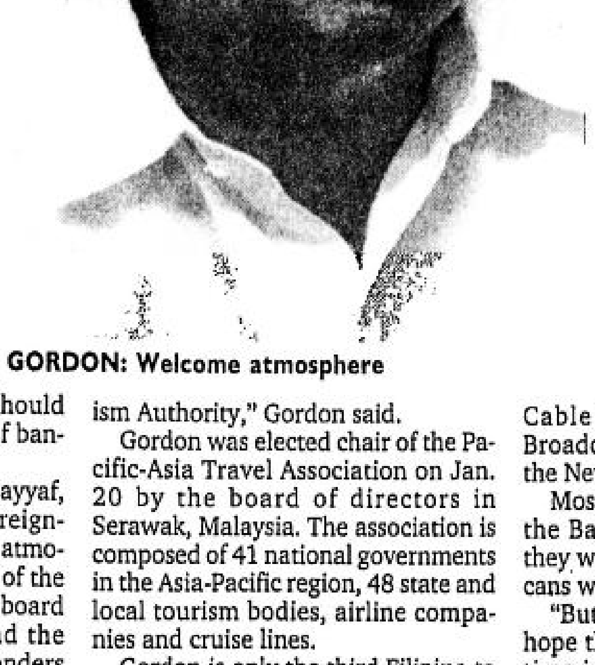
"We will be telling other countries that the Philippines is doing its share in making the region safe from terrorists and competitive in absorbing North American and European tourists," he said.

The military exercise, according to him, should prompt the United States, United Kingdom and Japan into lifting their travel ban to Mindanao.

Gordon said the military, equipped with US hardware, should be able to finish the Abu Sayyaf bandits once and for all.

The annihilation of the Abu Sayyaf, which has been kidnapping foreigners, would provide "a welcome atmosphere" for the Manila meeting of the Pacific-Asia Travel Association board of directors in September and the launching of the Wealth of Wonders (WOW) campaign to promote the Philippines as a tourist destination site.

"The Philippines would then be on the proper trajectory for the observance of Visit Philippines 2003, the promotional tourism program declared by no less than the World Tourism Authority," Gordon said.



GORDON: Welcome atmosphere

Gordon was elected chair of the Pacific-Asia Travel Association on Jan. 20 by the board of directors in Serawak, Malaysia. The association is composed of 41 national governments in the Asia-Pacific region, 48 state and local tourism bodies, airline companies and cruise lines.

Gordon is only the third Filipino to be elected leader of the association. Other Filipinos who have led the prestigious tourism body were Ambassador Modesto Farolan in 1954 and Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan in 1971.

In his first year as tourism secretary, Gordon was also elected chair of the World Tourism Organization for East Asia and the Pacific. He was reelected to the same position this year.

Wondering

The US troops have been attracting not only investors and tourists but also foreign journalists to Mindanao.

And some of these journalists are wondering why the United States is deploying such a big number of troops in Mindanao.

"For me, I find it quite strange. Imagine they are conducting a purely training exercise in an area where there are enemies. But let's just wait and see what happens," an Indian journalist working for the Hong Kong office of an international news agency said in Zamboanga City.

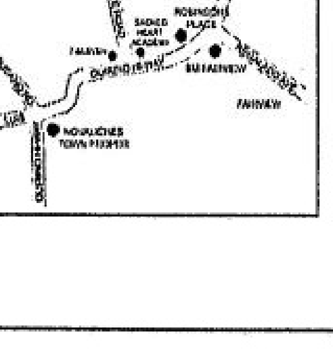
Another journalist, Pekka Mykkanen of Helsingin Sanomat, a Finish daily, said he was also surprised about the large US deployment of troops.

The war games have drawn the attention of international media outfits such as the Cable News Network, the British Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, and the New York Times.

Most of the 52 journalists covering the Basilan hostage crisis here said they wanted to know what the Americans were really up to.

"But all I want to say now is that I hope the Americans will have a good time in Zamboanga City, the city of flowers," Mykkanen said in a jest.

Maj. Noel Detoyato, spokesperson of the AFP Southern Command, said he expected more foreign journalists to visit the city when the war games get underway next month. ***With reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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Honolulu institute warns US plan in RP may fail

FILIPINO soldiers and workers at the Zamboanga International Airport help an American soldier unload lumber for their barracks.

DENNIS SABANGAN

HONOLULU—US military plans to combat terrorism in the Philippines are dangerous and could lead to failure, according to an analyst at the East-West Center.

"It's unclear whether the US mission is really for training, rescue of the American captives, or subduing al-Qaida sympathizers," Gerard Finin said in a report released Friday by the independent Honolulu-based East-West Center, which was established by the US Congress to strengthen understanding and relations between the United States and Asia-Pacific nations.

The Bush administration has been slowly expanding its fight against terrorism into Southeast Asia, where some regional officials fear that Islamic militants linked to Osama bin Laden aim to extend their influence across Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Southern Philippines.

The first US troops have arrived in the Philippines, and plans call for 660 to train Filipino forces in fighting the Abu Sayyaf, which is holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse.

But Finin said the growing US military mission in the Philippines was difficult and dangerous.

"The goal of the American presence in the Philippines is unclear and appears to be drifting from day to day," he said. Earlier in the week, he raised the concern that more terrorist attacks on America could be planned, funded and launched from remote Pacific island nations.

Finin said that the Bush administration appeared to have no exit strategy for the Philippines and that there was no guarantee that Filipino troops would be able to subdue the Abu Sayyaf.

He also questioned whether the Abu Sayyaf was really linked to al-Qaida or was just a kidnapping-for-profit operation.

Finin noted that the US military presence had become a divisive political issue in Manila, with demonstrations reminiscent of Filipino opposition to former US bases in the country.

"The worst-case scenario may ultimately lead to a lack of success militarily and a weakening of bilateral relations," he said.

Last week, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld defended US efforts in the region, saying, "If we have to go into 15 more countries we ought to do it to deal with the problem of terrorism, so we don't allow this problem to damage and kill tens and thousands more people." ***AP***

GMA cites Bush pledge to put US troops under RP command

From page A1

that "at any time," US forces would have to "follow the command of the Philippine commander."

Addressing fears that the Americans would engage in combat, she said the Balikatan was "a purely military exercise involving joint military training of RP and US troops meant to strengthen the AFP."

"The US forces are not authorized to conduct offensive operations," she said.

The President made these clearcut declarations as she laid down 10 policy guidelines on the conduct of the joint military exercise in an apparent bid to end the uproar over the deployment of US forces in Mindanao.

She said the exercise was "a facet of the global war on terrorism," and reiterated that it was covered by the Constitution and the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), and backed by the National Security Council.

The President promised to "severely sanction" any soldier violating human rights during the exercise, and said she had ordered Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, head of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights, to form a Western Mindanao committee for monitoring purposes.

She also said the exercise would last for only six months. She said two US trainers would accompany a company consisting of about 140 men but would not take part in combat.

The President said socioeconomic projects would be undertaken during the second half of the exercise because "Balikatan has a military aspect as well as a community development aspect."

In her speech she lauded the military officials for withdrawing support from then President Joseph Estrada at the height of People Power II in January last year.

"Their heroism is also the heroism of the (PMA alumni)," she said.

VFACom

The Department of Foreign Affairs said it would start today the monitoring and inspection of the ongoing preparations for the Balikatan.

Officials of the VFA Commission (VFACom) headed by Ambassador Jaime Yambao are scheduled to meet with US and Philippine military officials to discuss and coordinate the progress of the preparations.

The areas to be visited starting today up to Wednesday are Clark in Pampanga; Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija; Ternate, Cavite; and Zamboanga City.

"The monitoring will be made to ensure that the military exercises are consistent with the intents and purposes of the law, and that both camps, the US and the Philippines, would learn from each other," the VFACom said.

The commission will also check whether US and Philippine troops have sufficient and appropriate equipment to undertake the Balikatan.

"Live ammunition for shooting and bombing exercises is definitely prohibited," it said.

Yambao, accompanied by VFA Director Eduardo Manuel and outgoing VFACom Executive Director and now DFA Regional Officer Elmer Cato, will also meet with local officials to coordinate the concerns of the communities near the areas where the military exercise is to be held.

"The communities will have to be informed so that they would know when to expect the commencement of the training exercises and to stay away as far as possible from the areas where the shooting exercises will be undertaken," the VFACom said.

Officials of the commission will also observe the ongoing "Balance Piston," a special military training exercise aimed at enhancing the "interoperability" of both the US and the Philippine military.

"Balance Piston" is in the list of the Mutual Defense Treaty for 2002 and endorsed by the Mutual Defense Board (MDB).

No nukes

In Zamboanga City, AFP Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu confirmed that more materials would be arriving for the Balikatan, but stressed these would not include nuclear devices.

Cimatu issued the statement to address the concerns aired by some quarters, including militant groups, that the US forces could sneak in some of their nuclear weapons to strengthen America's campaign against global terrorism.

"Definitely, no nukes allowed," he said.

Cimatu said the Americans had only brought in military hardware such as vehicles and logistical support including computers and communications equipment.

He also confirmed that a total of 104 US servicemen were already in Zamboanga, and that "more of them would be coming in on Jan. 28."

At least 600 US servicemen are to take part in the Balikatan.

The latest to arrive on board a C17 Globemaster III cargo plane was a group of 31 servicemen led by Col. William Ball, chief of staff of the US Pacific Command.

At a media briefing, Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy Southcom commander, said 160 US soldiers would be deployed in Basilan.

The remaining will be stationed at Malagutay in Zamboanga City, at the Southcom headquarters, and in Mactan, Cebu.

Cimatu stressed that none of the US servicemen would be sent on patrol because "their main objective is to teach our troops, observe and assess our capabilities."

But he admitted that the Sampinit Jungle Base, which is within the Abu Sayyaf's lair in Basilan, would become one of the training fields.

Praise

Agence France Presse quoted the President yesterday as praising opposition leaders for dropping their objections to the deployment of US troops against the Abu Sayyaf.

"I thank the opposition senators for their decision on the joint military exercise of the Philippine and American troops," the President said at her weekly radio show, referring to a Senate hearing held on Friday.

She said that as a result of the hearing, "they believe the government regarding the true mission of the American soldiers."

"They don't have any doubts about the participation of the soldiers of the US in war games to be conducted in Basilan and Zamboanga City," she said. ***With reports from Christine Herrera in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Singapore cites close cooperation with Manila in anti-terror fight

SINGAPORE—Singapore acknowledged yesterday it shared information with the Philippines which led to the arrest of a suspected militant allegedly involved in a plot to bomb US targets here.

The government cited the information-sharing as an example of the cooperation among Southeast Asian security agencies in the fight against terrorism.

Philippine authorities have acknowledged that a tip from Singapore was instrumental in the arrest of the suspect, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian.

"Arising from information that the Internal Security Department (ISD) shared, the Philippines arrested Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi recently," the Singapore government said in a statement.

"The arrest is an example of the close cooperation between ISD and its foreign counterparts in the fight against international terrorism," it said.

Acting on the tip-off, Philippine authorities earlier this month arrested al-Ghozi, a bomb expert who was allegedly involved in a plot to blow up American targets in Singapore.

Thirteen suspected terrorists detained in Singapore have identified him as one of several foreigners whom they had worked with.

Al-Ghozi and the 13 detainees are alleged to be members of Jemaah Islamiyah, an extremist group based in Southeast Asia which is said to be linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Al-Ghozi, who arrived in Singapore in October, allegedly helped the group make video recordings of potential targets including the US, Australian, British and Israeli embassies and commercial buildings housing American firms.

Al-Ghozi's arrest led to several other detentions and the discovery of a cache of explosives and weapons in the southern Philippines.

In the statement, the government also clarified a report that three of several suspected Jemaah Islamiyah members arrested by Malaysian authorities recently were Singaporean.

One of the three, Shukry Omar Talib, renounced his Singaporean citizenship in 1987. The two others, Muhamad Ismail Anuwarul and Abdul Nasir Anuwarul, are permanent residents of Malaysia, it said. ***AFP***

Cops foil kidnap of American exec

From page A1

long time and we eventually got them," Baluyot, who also heads the task force, said.

He said his men were hunting other gang members who escaped after the gunfight.

The Pentagon gang, made up of former rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, is holding hostage Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni. The gang is on the US blacklist of international terrorist groups.

A Dole company official in Manila, who didn't want her name used, said her office was unaware of the kidnapping attempt.

But Baluyot said police recovered from the two dead raiders several weapons, a motorcycle used in surveying the Dole facility and a sketch showing the gang's plans to seize Hubbard.

He said that the gang might have been targeting other Dole executives, too.

"According to my investigation, there are several managers there right now," Baluyot said, adding that he didn't know where Hubbard was at the time of the raid.

Baluyot expressed confidence that the successful police operation would be the start of the downfall of the Pentagon gang.

"Sooner or later, we will be able to neutralize the top leaders of this group," he said, identifying them as Tahir Alonto and Faisal Marohombsar, former commanders of the MILF that is holding peace talks with the government.

Two days before Christmas, police raided a Pentagon jungle camp and rescued Pierre Belanger, of Ottawa, Canada. The gang had been holding him captive for nearly two months.

Police killed two gunmen in that raid.

The Pentagon gang rose to notoriety last year when by kidnapping four Chinese engineers working on a big irrigation project in Central Mindanao.

The bandits killed two of the engineers who tried to flee during a military operation. The third engineer was wounded but was rescued after the gun battle.

The fourth engineer was subsequently released, reportedly under pressure from the MILF as well as the governments of China, Malaysia and Libya.

On Jan. 15, the Pentagon gang abducted Dr. Rosemarie Agustin in Cotabato City. About 100 city doctors and medical personnel staged a five-day strike to protest the kidnapping of their 52-year-old colleague.

Warning

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit warned that Cotabato City might lose its doctors should they continue to fall prey to kidnappers.

During the strike, doctors attended only to emergency cases and shunned consultations.

"If we don't protect them, all of them might decide to leave Cotabato—which may be already happening now. And we may not be able to offer the people health services," Dayrit said.

He noted that even government doctors had joined the strike to "signify their disgust over what happened."

Asked whether he would take action against them, Dayrit answered in the negative.

"They're at the frontline. Essentially, what their saying is: 'We're in one community here and you have to also protect us. If we are gonna provide services to you, we want to make sure that you will know that our services are useful," he said.

Dayrit said he had talked with Interior Secretary Joey Lina who, in turn, promised to provide security to doctors in the area. The doctors were also advised to avoid "high-risk" areas.

The Pentagon has become increasingly active lately but is much smaller than the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, which has also been kidnapping foreigners.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap on the southern island of Basilan.

American and Philippine troops are preparing for joint operations against the Abu Sayyaf that is believed to have links with the al-Qaida network of terror mastermind Osama bin Laden. ***Reports by AP, AFP and Armand Nocum***

'Not for my image but country's'

From page A1

"Actually, from previous administrations, there were already a number (of PR firms hired)," she said during a chance interview at the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. general membership meeting in Camp Aguinaldo.

"All administrations here and all countries in the world have that," she said. "They all get a communications firm to promote their countries."

The INQUIRER reported the other day that the President's media handlers had hired Burson-Marsteller (B-M) for $1 million to take care of her publicity during her 10-day visit to the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

$800,000, not $1M

Tiglao refused to confirm the reported $1-million fee.

"The amount isn't like that. Only (a) very minimal (amount) will come from the President's budget. The bulk is paid for by private businessmen. It's a contract between them and Burson," Tiglao said.

In its website, B-M carried a Jan. 2, 2002 article in Jack O'Dwyer's Newsletter saying that the Philippines awarded B-M an $800,000 one-year contract "to restore investor confidence in the country that has been knocked due to its own war on terror."

The article said the company's job was to "enhance the sovereign credit rating and strengthen perceptions of the international business community that the Philippines is an attractive location for foreign direct investment."

The program included media relations, spokesperson training and the development of economic materials, it said.

The chair of B-M's US Public Affairs Practice, Richard Mintz, coordinates activities with Ariel Y. Abadilla, charge d'affaires at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, it added.

Negative image abroad

According to INQ7.net sources, part of the publicity campaign is a barrage of ads and commercials produced by international advertising agencies that will be published and aired in time with Ms Macapagal's visits. The sources said the ads were commissioned direct from the Office of the President.

A source said the President's media handlers had also searched for "perception managers" to ensure that Ms Macapagal's policies are "communicated to the public correctly."

Tiglao said the businessmen who were shouldering the PR contract wanted to help the country recover from its "bad image" after the Estrada presidency and the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings.

"For a time it was extremely bad," he said of the country's image.

"(The businessmen) want a good image for the Philippines to get investors."

He said the PR campaign was not just intended for the President's visits to the United Kingdom, Canada and United States.

Ranked among the world's top PR agencies, B-M was also reportedly hired by former President Fidel Ramos during his trip to Paris in the 1990s.

In its website, B-M described itself as "a leading global communications counseling and public relations firm" whose mission was "to create superior value for our clients—local, national or global—by providing the best in strategic, integrated communications and implementation."

The firm was established in 1953 and has 76 offices worldwide in 63 cities, 35 countries and five continents.

Buhain PSA guest

NEWLY appointed Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain is the special guest in the weekly PSA Forum this Tuesday at the Holiday Inn hotel. PSA president Lito Tacujan of the Philippine Star also reminds members to attend the coming annual election of the PSA to be held on the first Tuesday of February.

Sunday **SPORTS**
Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ Edwin M. Villanueva, Assistant Editor

2100 below active chess today

THE MCC 2100 below active chess tournament kicks off at 10 a.m. today at the 2/F Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. The top four finishers, who will be selected using the seven round Swiss System, will receive cash prizes.

Welcoat, Shark clash for Challenge crown

GAMES TUESDAY
(Makati Coliseum)
3 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Kutitap (for 3rd, best-of-three)
5 p.m.—Welcoat vs Shark (championship, best-of-seven)

By Dennis U. Eroa

RODRIGUEZ

CASTRO

PBA-BOUND Ren Ren Ritualo displayed awesome firepower, lifting Welcoat Paints to a devastating 106-88 victory over shell-shocked Kutitap Toothpaste and the PBL Challenge Cup finals last night at the Makati Coliseum.

To chalk its fifth crown in two years, Welcoat needs to hurdle a familiar adversary—titleholder Shark Energy Drink. Shark, thanks to the heroics of old warrior Jing Rodriguez, Rolly Basillides, Ryzal Castro and speedy Warren Ybañez, rallied mightily to edge ICTSI-La Salle, 58-56, in the other playoff for a finals slot. This will be the fourth straight title showdown between the league's dominant teams, with Welcoat enjoying a 2-1 edge.

The six-footer Ritualo, who will play for FedEx after this conference, awed the sizeable crowd with his variety of offensive moves, exploding with a record 20 first quarter points which enabled the Paintmasters to secure their sixth straight PBL finals appearance.

Kutitap did everything to handcuff the hot-shooting Ritualo, but the Lumban, Laguna native still managed to finish the first half with 28 points as Welcoat posted a huge, 67-52 lead. Welcoat's total was a point less than the PBL all-time halftime mark of 68 points piled by the now-defunct Nikon team in 1993.

"I played badly in our last game. And I hate to disappoint our fans and management," Ritualo, who had three triples, said. Ritualo eventually finished with 31 points after 28 minutes of action as the Paintmasters merely coasted along till the final buzzer.

For the first time this conference, Ritualo was also given a technical foul with defender Nino Gelig, who engaged the former La Salle hotshot in trash talking. Also trying to unnerve Ritualo with his mouth was veteran playmaker Rency Bajar.

"Maybe they didn't know that I majored in Psychology," Ritualo quipped. He sank 12 of 14 free throws and went 5 of 7 from the perimeter.

Slotman Yancy de Ocampo, Ritualo's FedEx teammate, also delivered the goods. With Ritualo resting, the 6-foot-8 De Ocampo finished with 21 points, 10 in the third period which allowed Welcoat to keep its double-digit advantage.

Basillides sank two gift shots as Shark went ahead, 57-56, and the gallery let out a collective shout as Alvin Castro's running shot was too strong, .8 of a second remaining.

Coach Leo Austria agonized most of the way but his faith in the 30-year-old Rodriguez paid handsomely in the second half. Rodriguez kept the rallying Energy Drink Kings within striking distance as he scored 10, eight in the third period.

ICTSI playmaker Mike Cortez had a woeful night as he appeared tentative in the face of Ybañez's and Michael Robinson's defense. The six-footer Cortez scored eight points, but bungled two gift shots in the final 1:07 which could have given the Green Archers a two-point lead.

Scores:

(First Game)

WELCOAT 106—Ritualo 31, De Ocampo 21, Manalo 11, Tan 10, Patrimonio 9, Cruz 7, Canias 7, Encarnacion 6, Orfrecio 4, Mamaclay 0, Tolentino 0.

KUTITAP 88—Baguio 23, Saquilayan 14, Bajar 11, Salangsang 10, Rivera 8, Mercado 6, Gonzalez 5, Gelig 3, Dy 4, Sison 2, Mallari 2, Lopez 0, Espiritu 0.

Quarters:37-23, 67-52,87-67, 106-88

(Second Game)

SHARK 58—Castro 11, Rodriguez 10, Tolomia 8, Cole 8, Basillides 7, Ybañez 6, Ortega 4, Malabanan 2, Sotto 2, Junio 0, Robinson 0.

ICTSI-LA SALLE 56—Yap 15, Wilson 10, Castro 9, Cortez 8, Omolon 4, Sta. Maria 3, Cabanayan 3, Uy 2, Franco 2, Daep 0, Vainio 0.

Quarters:12-21, 28-38,42-50, 58-56

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

WELCOAT'S Ritualo (left) fires one of his three triples off Kutitap's Cyrus Baguio during their knockout game in the PBL Challenge Cup yesterday. Ritualo finished with 31 points as Welcoat won, 106-88, and forged a title showdown with Shark.

'Bato sa Buhain'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THEY seemed to have gotten it all wrong. Just because you were a former athlete, that makes you more qualified to run the show at the Philippine Sports Commission than a non-athlete?

Baloney. If not too simplistic an approach.

I ran the 400 some 47 pounds ago. I played high school basketball at the height of Beatlemania in the Sixties. I did ping pong, varsity level. In short, I was a former athlete. Does that make me now the man for the PSC?

I don't think so.

Cory Aquino was a mere housewife before she was shoved into Malacañang. Did she make a bad President?

I don't think so.

Fidel Ramos was a soldier all his life before he was shoved into Malacañang. Did he make a bad President?

I don't think so.

Just because Michael Jordan is presently the greatest basketball player on Earth, does that mean he's going to be a good NBA commissioner once he is thrust into that post?

I don't think so.

Will Ramon Fernandez, because he was a four-time PBA MVP, make a good PBA commissioner? So with Alvin Patrimonio, the other four-time PBA MVP?

One can never tell, really.

So, fellas, let's cut that crap, please?

Achievements are not surefire formulas for success during a career move/change.

Caloy Loyzaga never became the country's best coach when he tried his hand at coaching. This, after he ruled Philippine basketball like a king for almost a decade.

Baby Dalupan was never a great basketball player. Yet, he authored the first PBA Grand Slam in 1976. He remains the winningest PBA coach in memory, retiring as the El Maestro of the hard court.

So, how can one now say for sure that Eric Buhain will succeed as PSC chair? Will his being a bemedalled swimmer give him the magic splash for success?

In the same breath, will Lydia de Vega also succeed if she finally decides to accept a PSC post? Will her sprints golds in both the SEA Games and Asiad assure her of a similar success at the PSC?

I'm not saying anything, except that only time can tell if they become good leaders or not.

Stretching the argument further, wasn't Weena Lim a former athlete, too? Wasn't she the first Filipino badminton player ever to reach the Olympics (Atlanta in 1996)? I'm not saying Weena is a flop as a commissioner. Far from that, fellas.

And, pushing the flashback button farther. Wasn't Tisha Abundo, a former PSC commissioner, a former volleyball great, too? She did make waves during her time. Too bad she fell prey to PSC vultures that she soon found herself getting bundled out unceremoniously.

Sporting greatness is never a fool-proof formula for success for any wannabe at the PSC.

Frankly, anybody can perform well as PSC chair. Even Mang Pandoy. The trick is simply to stick to the main reason of the agency's existence: Hand out the subsidies to everybody, without fear or favor.

Honestly, Eric can dish it out with ease. He can do that by treating his post with a conscience as clean as a whistle. Otherwise, he'll get gobbled up. By the system.

If that should happen, he can go back to the beach anytime, anyway. And, before plunging into the sea, sing : "Bato sa Buhain."

■

Dolores Gurion, my classmate from Grade 1 to Fourth Year high school, is in town. I haven't seen her since our high school graduation. I'll finally get to see her again today as she will host a party for her classmates at their ancestral home in Mangatarem, Pangasinan. Dolly's been residing in faraway San Francisco, California, since the Seventies.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: AFC Championship – New England vs Pittsburgh tomorrow at 1 a.m., NFC Championship – Philadelphia vs St. Louis at 5:30 a.m. on Studio 23 and Sky Cable 29

TENNIS: Australian Open at 8 a.m. on Sky Cable 29

BOXING: WBC Welterweight Championship – Shane Mosley vs Vernon Forrest at 4 p.m. on Sky Cable 29

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Iverson sets arena scoring mark; Shaq, Kobe lift Lakers to victory

PHILADELPHIA—When Allen Iverson hit a jump shot for his 44th and 45th points, he yelled to the Boston bench: "You can't stop me."

Indeed, the Celtics couldn't.

Iverson scored 47 points to lead the 76ers past Boston Celtics 106-90 and help Philadelphia (21-21) even its record for the first time in almost two months.

Philadelphia won for the sixth time in seven games, reaching .500 for the first time since falling to 8-8 at the start of a seven-game losing streak on Dec. 2.

"They're playing like a team that went to the finals last year," Boston coach Jim O'Brien said. "We did not have an answer for Allen Iverson. He took us out of the game early and we were chasing them all night.

In other games, the Los Angeles Lakers defeated San Antonio 94-91, Toronto topped Minnesota 107-100, Indiana beat Charlotte 90-81 and Detroit defeated Atlanta 107-90.

Iverson broke Antoine Walker's FleetCenter scoring record, but the reigning MVP went cold down the stretch.

He missed four consecutive shots as Boston cut a 13-point deficit to 94-90 with 3:59 left. Eric Snow had six points the rest of the way while Boston failed to score.

"It's satisfying just because it's a win," Iverson said. "It doesn't matter who it's against or what arena it's in. We just need a win ... whether it looks good or ugly."

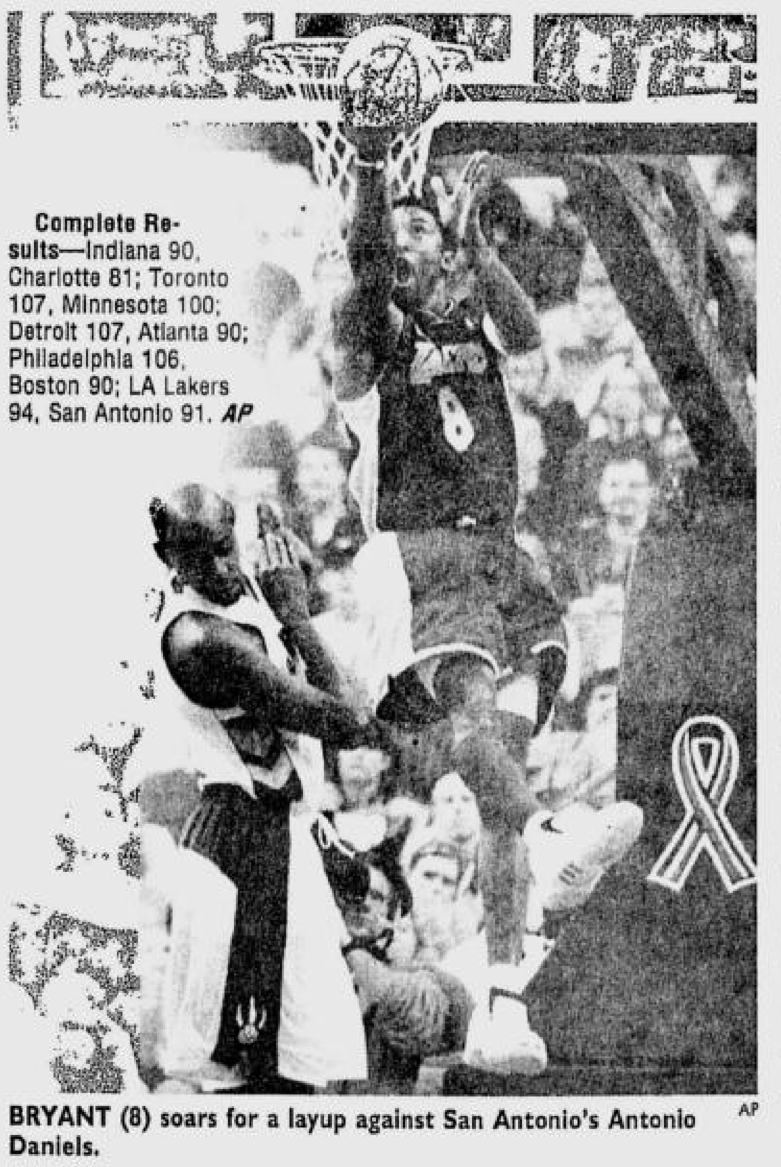
Paul Pierce had 30 points and 13 rebounds, and Antoine Walker had 18 points for Boston, which had won five of its previous seven games. The Sixers have beaten Boston eight consecutive times.

Lakers 94, Spurs 91

Shaquille O'Neal had 25 points and 15 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant scored 27 as Los Angeles ended a two-game losing streak.

The Lakers still have not lost three straight since Phil Jackson became their coach before the 1999-2000 season, and Jackson has not lost three in a row since he was coaching the Bulls during the 1994-95 season and Michael Jordan was playing baseball.

O'Neal, who went 11-of-21 from the field, made one of two free throws with six seconds left to give the Lakers a three-point edge. Terry Porter shot an airball from 3-point range as time expired. *AP*



Complete Results—Indiana 90, Charlotte 81; Toronto 107, Minnesota 100; Detroit 107, Atlanta 90; Philadelphia 106, Boston 90; LA Lakers 94, San Antonio 91. *AP*

AP

BRYANT (8) soars for a layup against San Antonio's Antonio Daniels.

Knicks vs Bucks

THE RESURGENT New York Knicks battle the slumping Milwaukee Bucks at 9 tonight on NBN-4. The Knicks started the week with an eight-game losing streak and their worst home loss ever, a 68-111 defeat against Charlotte on Monday that was so bad that Knicks players walked off the court with towels on their heads amid boos from their own fans. But the Knicks have ended the week strong, with hard-earned victories against Toronto (96-92) and Phoenix (96-91), and hope to cap things off with a big win against the Atlantic Division-leading Milwaukee Bucks.

Rafi inks one-year Coke deal

By June Navarro

FIL-AMERICAN Rafi Reavis has signed a one-year pact with Coca-Cola even as Asian Games head coach Jong Uichico said he was expecting absentees Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino of Sta. Lucia Realty to show up when practice sessions for the national team resume tomorrow.

Picked second overall by Coke in the recent PBA draft, the 24-year-old Reavis inked a contract, which a source said, could cost the Tigers at least P3 million.

Reavis, a 6-foot-8 slasher out of University of Coppin State, was exempted from the salary-cap restrictions imposed on rookies as he already played for the Andok's San Juan Knights in the MBA.

But the Tigers, who absorbed their nucleus from the defunct Pop Cola Panthers, could only utilize Reavis for only one conference granting that he gets named in the national team to this year's Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

The PBA-spiked national team is immersed in intrigue after twin skyscrapers Aquino and Espino refused to make themselves available during training at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Complex inside the sprawling Ateneo campus.

"It was just a little misunderstanding. I'm expecting Marlou and Dennis to show up on Monday," said Uichico, headcoach of the national team to the Asiad set on Nov. 24-Oct. 14.

Aquino and Uichico reportedly had a slight argument regarding the fines and allowances of the national team, driving the 6-foot-9 behemoth away from the scrimmages for three consecutive days.

Meanwhile, Shell replaced NBA veteran Joe Courtney as their reinforcement for the Commissioner's Cup set to unfold on Feb. 10.

The Turbo Chargers replaced Courtney with another NBA journeyman in 6-foot-8 Chucky Brown, a 10-year NBA veteran who started and ended his stint in the league with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

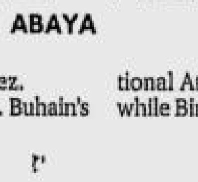
Robert, Eric PNBA awards special guests

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado and newly appointed Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain have been invited as special guests in the 2nd Philippine National Basketball Academy Awards Night which will be held on Jan. 30 at the Century Park Hotel.

Aventajado of the taekwondo association and Buhain will present the 2nd Senator Ambrosio Padilla-Asian Leadership Award to Ms Yoon Duk-Joo, alongside PNBA president and Basketball Association of the Philippines chair Rep. Antonio Abaya and BAP president Quintellano "Tiny" Literal.

Dr, Carl Men Ky Ching, president of the Asian Basketball Confederation, will be the main guest speaker. He will be introduced by Literal.

Also invited to grace the hour-long affair are Commissioners Cynthia Carrion and William Ramirez.


ABAYA

"We warmly welcome Mr. Buhain's appointment as PSC chairman. As a former athlete, Mr. Buhain is perfect for the job because he understands their needs," said Rep. Abaya. "Mr. Aventajado is a respected figure in the POC and his presence in the awards night will surely liven up the affair."

Romel Adducul will receive his award as National Athlete of the Year (for men), while Bimbie Manalaysay will be conferred the National Athlete of the Year (for women). Bert Lina of FedEx and Alvin Tai Lian will receive their awards as team managers of the Year for the 21st SEA Games and 4th SEABA Men's Championship (men).

To be honored posthumously are former national players Alfie Almario and Larry Mumar, former national coach Valentin "Tito" Eduque, 1st Filipino Fiba referee Felicisimo Fajardo, BAP regional director Antonio Angeles and former POC president Col. Nereo Andolong.

GO TENG KOK

GTK cries foul over ethics commission probe

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ATHLETICS chief Go Teng Kok yesterday cried foul over the recent spate of charges—the third in the span of one month—hurled against him by the Philippine Olympic Committee Ethics Commission.

The Ethics Commission, chaired by former POC president Rene Cruz, gave Go 5 days to answer why he didn't respond to the two previous queries posed against him last Dec. 19 and Jan. 2.

Go was being questioned on his links with a convicted drug dealer and his alleged misdemeanor during a POC general assembly last year.

"It's worse than harassment because the committee is asking me issues which have been answered already (Patafa chair and former POC head) Jose Sering. What kind of explanation do they want."

Go added: "First there is no case filed against me. I was just trying to help a friend. I'm sure General Cruz understand it, because he also tried to help his only son who had a trouble with the law years back."

Go said the third letter from the Commission practically threw away the argument posed by Sering, who is also the Patafa legal counsel.

"I hope this has nothing to do with my long standing feud with (POC president) Celso Dayrit regarding the way he runs the POC," said Go.

Dayrit earlier said the Ethics Commission is independent and autonomous and had no power to sanction any NSA president.

Meanwhile, NSA heads are questioning the powers given by the POC to the Ethics commission, saying the POC general assembly never agreed on the scope and limitation of the commission.

Judo association president Reynaldo Jaylo said he will raise the issue in the POC general assembly on Wednesday, because the POC has yet to create a code of ethics where the commission can base its functions.

Weightlifting polls in Cebu

RIVAL groups in the Philippine Weightlifting Association yesterday agreed to hold a general election on Feb. 2 at the Cebu Convention Center.

The agreement was forged through a meeting supervise by Gen. Lucas Managuelod and lawyer Lito Mondragon, who were tasked by the Philippine Olympic Committee to oversee the protracted leadership dispute.

Managuelod said the two groups, one led by Rudy Sicat and the other by Jaime Sebastian, will hold the election for trustees, directors and executive board members in accordance with the PWA constitution.

Managuelod and Mondragon will monitor the election in Cebu where 19 weightlifting clubs are expected to cast their votes.

"We have identified the qualified voters and I think everybody is happy with the arrangement because everything will be held in accordance to their own bylaws," said Managuelod who is the president of the Muay Thai Association. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Capriati repulses Hingis, repeats as ladies champ

MELBOURNE, Australia — Jennifer Capriati fought off four match points in the second set and beat Martina Hingis 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-2 Saturday to win her second consecutive Australian Open title.

The top-seeded Capriati fell behind 0-4 in the second set and cursed at the chair umpire. But Capriati then staved off three match points - at 3-5 and 5-6 - to force a tiebreaker.

She survived one more at 6-7 in the tiebreaker and finally took the set when Hingis hit a backhand wide. Hingis threw her racket after letting Capriati back into the match.

Capriati "cruised" through the final set. At the end, she dropped her racket, ran over to touch hands with her father, Stefano, blew kisses, and walked back on court, shaking her head in apparent disbelief.

"I kept fighting on those match points I was down. I went for it. I don't know why I didn't play like that every point," said Capriati, who now has beaten Hingis in four straight matches.

"I knew she would come out almost like me last year, swinging for the fence. She was really determined. She did play well, but at the beginning I didn't play my best tennis," Capriati added.

The comeback win thrilled the 15,021-strong crowd at Rod Laver Arena and stunned Capriati.

Meanwhile, ninth-seeded Russian Marat Safin eyes his second Grand Slam title when he faces 16th seed Thomas Johansson of Sweden in the men's final Sunday.

"I couldn't believe finally that I won," she said. "Maybe I thought the third set would be a lot more difficult. I was cruising—it was because Martina didn't feel well. She was struggling.

"I don't know what's better—the first (title) or to come back from match point and win this," she added.

The 2-hour, 10-minute struggle contrasted with last year's final, when Capriati beat Hingis 6-4, 6-3.

This time, Hingis took big leads in the first two sets before weakening in the third. It was her third consecutive loss in an Australian Open final, and her fifth in a major final since her last Grand Slam event triumph, at the 1999 Australian Open.

In 35 degree Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) heat, Capriati at one point took refuge in a tunnel entry and Hingis put an ice pack on her neck between points in the second-set tiebreaker. The players were allowed a 10-minute break after the second set.

At the end, Hingis sat with her head bowed.

"Jennifer was just too good for me," said Hingis, in her second tournament since coming back from ankle surgery last October.

"I think I exceeded my expectations. I don't know whether to be happy or cry about it," Hingis added. "Hopefully we'll have many more finals like this. I hope to have revenge sometime soon."

Capriati came back from 1-5 to 4-5 in the first set but then lost her serve.

In the second, she lost her serve for 0-2 in the second game, in which she screeched a protest over a line call and demanded that the referee be called.

From 0-4, she recovered to 3-4 by breaking Hingis twice, was broken herself for 3-5, and then hit a backhand winner to save a match point. She broke for 4-5 on a double fault and forehand error by Hingis, and held for 5-5.

Serving at 5-6, she yielded another match point with a double fault but survived it and one more when Hingis hit forehands long. Finally she held for 6-all with a forehand down the line.

Hingis gained one more match point in the tiebreaker with a backhand volley, but missed a backhand for 7-all.

Capriati then hit a winning forehand down the line, took the set when Hingis hit a backhand wide, and vigorously shook her fist several times.

The two traded early service breaks in the final set before Capriati won the last five games by pressing Hingis into errors.

She finished it with a spectacular lunging forehand crosscourt serve return.

Capriati earned 1 million Australian dollars (US$520,000) for her third title in her last five Grand Slam tournaments. She won the Australian and French Opens last year and reached the semifinals at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. **AP**

CAPRIATI hoists the winner's trophy as a dejected Hingis looks down at the Australian Open Tennis Championships on Saturday. Capriati won, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2. AP

Putch scores in Australia

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

MARHO bossman Putch Puyat is smiling a lot these days.

The latest glow in Putch's face was brought mainly by a galloper named Apo Quality.

The filly gave Putch his first win in Australia last Thursday (Jan. 24) when she triumphed in the first race at the Canterbury racetrack in Sydney.

Apo Quality is a half sister to the classy import Enchantress who had a stint here a few years ago. In the United States, Putch also raced a half brother to this filly named Apo Heights who also won in Churchill Downs, Louisiana and Gulfstream Park, New York.

After Apo Quality's victory, we could say that Putch is on a roll.

He considers spearheading the holding of last year's highly successful 6th Marho Breeders' Cup a victory not just for himself but also for his Marhomates, the *bayang kareristas*, and the generous patrons who have ceaselessly supported the group's projects through the years.

By the way, Apo Quality's success came at a time when Marho is observing its 28th founding anniversary.

Today, the group's three-day racing spectacle in observance of that momentous occasion comes to a fitting close.

So we expect Putch and the other Big Guns of Marho like Sandy Javier and Hermie Esguerra to be at the Santa Ana Park.

Happy anniversary!

* * *

When Marho stages a major racing event, local racing's who's who makes it a point to show up either at the Santa Ana Park or San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Most likely, Myther Buñag will also be at the Makati racetrack today along with wife Susan, Ilocandia Slew's chief rooter.

Jun Almeda will watch how his retiring Sun City would fare against Ilocandia Slew and five others in the featured Danding Cojuangco Cup, while Jimmy "Action Man" Dilag said he'll try his very best not to miss today's festivities.

Jimmy's fellow commissioners Roger Tandiama, Bey Cruz and Jun Sevilla are also coming over so as other Marhomen like Jose Mari Franco, Dinky Santos, Albert Trinidad, Tony Tan, Inocencio Crisostomo, Raymund Puyat, Chito Borromeo and Jason Lim.

My Silip Boy said he's also joining the fun this afternoon. See you at Santa Ana!

* * *

Parañaque businessman and Be Quiet's owner Tony Arevalo is celebrating his birthday bash tomorrow (Jan. 28) at Myther's and Friends.

Myther said grand raffle prizes, courtesy of Tony, await all the members of Monday Club (jockeys and trainers).

Huwag daw kayong mawawala!

SPORTSWATCH

Reyes-Archer duel on 13

EFREN "Bata" Reyes' smashing victory in the Accu-Stats 8-Ball Invitational, which sparked a spectacular run of victories in 2001 that made him the PSA "Athlete of the Year," headlines back-to-back sports spectaculars over Viva Television on IBC-13 today. The classic battle between Reyes, known the world over as "The Magician" for his incredible shot-making and former world champion Johnny Archer will be telecast from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Show sponsors are Motolite, No Fear, Pepsi, PLDT and Emperador.

WBC has say on Tyson-Lewis fight

NEW YORK—The Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson fight has the blessing of the World Boxing Council even if it isn't sanctioned by the Nevada State Athletic Commission. "The World Boxing Council ordered this mandatory fight, which will be sanctioned by our organization in any city or country where it is held," WBC president Jose Sulaiman said in a statement released by his office in Mexico City. It would be a major pay-per-view bout and figures to be a bonanza for Las Vegas. The Nevada commission is to meet Tuesday on whether to license Tyson for the heavyweight championship fight set for April 6 in the MGM Grand at Las Vegas. It is a WBC mandatory heavyweight title defense against the top-ranked challenger for Lewis, who also is IBF champion. ***AP***

Lim solo Slasher winner

SOFT-SPOKEN Dicky Lim banked on the awesome prowess of his Spencer Winslet battle birds to score 7-1/2 points and emerged solo champion of the well-attended 2002 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby Cup yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum. Lim expertly handled his Grey rooster to beat an overly aggressive Red ace cock in an explosive championship fight, raising his arm in jubilation after sealing his first ever victory in the World Slasher Derby, widely regarded as the Olympics of Cockfighting. Two other entries, Argem Coliseum-Mulawin 5-Cock and BL USA Golden Aces of Boy Lechon, finished a close second at seven points, while Mulawin I of Frank Berin and Rep. Rudy Albano and JBB Agilawin-UMA of Rep. R. Montilla ended third at 6-1/2 points.

Mosley defends WBC welter crown vs Forrest today

NEW YORK — Shane Mosley and Vernon Forrest will display their big-time talents Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) in a small arena.

"I can't believe we're in a 5,000-seat area, and it should be a pay-per-view bout," said Mosley, who will defend the WBC welterweight championship on an HBO telecast from The Theater at Madison Square Garden.

While Mosley and Forrest are battling in The Theater, St. John's will be playing Providence in college basketball in the main Garden Arena.

The fight is sold out, but if it were held in the 19,000-seat main arena, it probably wouldn't draw nearly as many people as the basketball game.

Mosley (38-0, 35 knockouts) and Forrest (33-0, 26 knockouts) are fight-fan fighters, as are most boxers today. They can make very good money fighting on HBO and Showtime, but fights in big arenas and on pay-per-view usually are denied them because their celebrity doesn't reach beyond boxing.

The only true non-heavyweight pay-per-view attraction is Oscar De La Hoya, who has managed to translate his boxing ability and Olympic Golden Boy image into major purses, endorsement deals and even a CD of songs.

When the 30-year-old Mosley won the welterweight title, he outpointed De La Hoya in a pay-per-view match before 20,000 fans at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on June 17, 2000. The victory, however, did not make Mosley a household name. ***AP***

RACING TIPS

At Sta. Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Sweep Away 2. Alluring 3. Noble House 4. Il Amorosa
Race 2—1. Golden Child 2. Champs Elysees 3. Noble Principality
Race 3—1. Bohemyo 2. Andee's Joy 3. Winning Prize 4. Yes You Can 5. Green Leaves
Race 4—1. Proud Spirit/Top Mark 2. Golden Dave 3. Guts 4. War General
Race 5—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. Asalto 3. Arresbee 4. Strong Bird 5. Lucky El
Race 6—1. Our Hope 2. Conquer D Sun 3. Burning Light
Race 7—1. Royal Service 2. Agree to Agree 3. Chief Navigator 4. Legend of Gaia 5. Hyperbid
Race 8—1. Lyonnais 2. Ilocandia Slew 3. Sun City 4. Staunch Ally
Race 9—1. May's Magic 2. Marginal Note 3. Silver Dollar 4. The Mailman 5. King Aldrin
Race 10—1. Señor Raggaas 2. Regal Mischief
Race 11—1. The warrior 2. Accurized 3. Security Risk 4. High Pocket
Race 12—1. Front Page 2. Picardy 3. Time Essential 4. Party Princess 5. Turbo Carera
Race 13—1. Rosewood 2. Rapid Strike 3. Real dancer 4. Bumper to Bumper
Race 14—1. Profit Margin 2. Roulette Queen 3. Above All 4. Thunder Speed 5. Madam Aida 6. Touch of Luck

Libre, Admin prevail in PDI basketball meet

Games Saturday (Olympia Gym)
8:30 a.m.—Sports vs Circulation
10 a.m.—Libre vs Administration

INQUIRER Libre and Administration beat separate opponents yesterday during the opening of the Philippine Daily Inquirer 2002 Basketball tournament at the Olympia Gym in Makati City.

Genie Lagman led four players in double figures as Libre downed Circulation, 65-57, while Administration warded off Advertising's late-game rally to prevail, 45-40 in the second game.

Lagman fired 17 points, Gilbert Rago had 14 while Richie Sabado and Jerry Ruiz contributed 11 markers each to frustrate three-time INQUIRER basketball tournament champion Circulation.

Pre-tournament favorite Sports took a bye in the opener graced by INQUIRER vice president Dave O. Valdes and will see action at 8:30 am on Saturday against Circulation.

Valdez opened the tournament where each of the five teams will meet their opponents twice. Teams need to sweep all their matches to take a free ride to the Finals.

Prior to the games, Advertising's Sonny Cruz came home P1,000 richer after he beat 3-point shootout favorite Dayong Mendoza of Sports.

Scores:

LIBRE 65—Lagman 17, Rago 14, Sabado 11, Ruiz 11, Cordez 6, Arazas 4, Cuya 2, Alejandro 0, Francisco 0, Roberto 0, Castillo 0, Banhag 0, Reinoso 0, Navarro 0.

CIRCULATION 57—Viray 19, Valencia 17, Ilagan 7, Chanco 7, Templonuevo 5, Langahin 2, Corre 0, Jacosalem 0, Libre 0, Papio 0, Valenzuela 0, Ramillosa 0, Baltazar 0, Elardo 0.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1988, Col. Conrado Guerson and Ram Lopez tallied a 156 total to clinch the 2nd Commanding General-Philippine Army golf championship at the Fort Bonifacio course. Also today in 1992, Joe Noel Camu steered May Five to a winning time of 1:44 to bag the 1992 Dr. AP Reyes Memorial Cup race at the Sta. Ana Park.

Waldorf Phoenix leader

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—Duffy Waldorf fired his second consecutive 65 to grab a one-shot lead at the $4 million (US) Phoenix Open on Thursday.

Waldorf's round gave him a 12-under-par total of 130 at the half-way stage on the par 71, 7,059-yard TPC of Scottsdale course.

He leads Vijay Singh and Rory Sabbatini by one shot heading into third round, with Skip Kendall and Chris DiMarco one shot further back.

Waldorf's round included seven birdies, an eagle on the 15th hole and three bogeys, as he searches for his fifth career PGA Tour victory.

He tied for 31st place at last week's Bob Hope Desert Classic and sits tied for 77th on the money list heading into this week's play.

Singh, making his first appearance of the 2002 season, carded a second round 65 to sit at 131, 11-under-par. Sabbatini fired the best round of the day, a 64, to go with his opening round 67. *Reuters*

Goosen paces JW

PERTH, Australia—US Open champion Retief Goosen of South Africa conquered blustery afternoon winds Friday to take a one-shot lead after the second round of the 1.25 million US$ Johnnie Walker Classic at Lake Karrinyup.

Goosen was the only golfer to conquer "the Fremantle Doctor," winds, shooting a 4-under 68 to move to 6-under 138 in the joint European, Australasian and Asian PGA tours event. *AP*

BCC tops ladies

BAGUIO CITY—Baguio Country Club Team A topped the premiere Class A division of the 27th Baguio Ladies Invitational Golf Tournament at the BCC golf course with a three-day total of 412.

Sonia Bruce and Cha Diciano scored 37 and 36 points, respectively, to power BCC's 141 final round assault. They were supported by Nanette Filler (35) and Leny Cuyno (33).

Drive for a Cause Golf Wednesday

THE LA Salle Greenhills Alumni Association will be hosting the 10th Drive for a Cause Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at Sherwood Hills. Tee-off time is from 7-9 a.m. and the entry fee is P1,400.

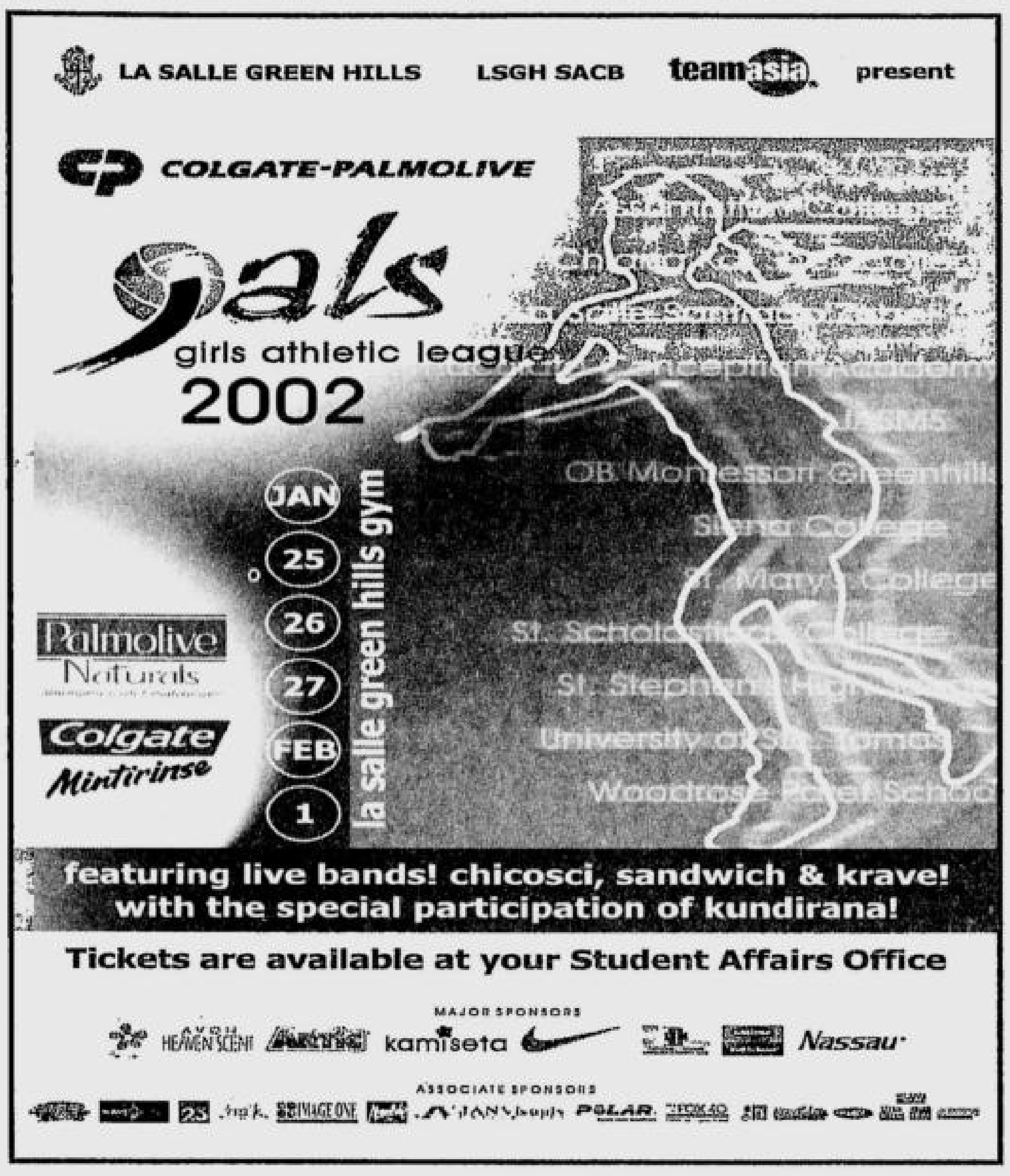
Awardings will be at the La Salle Greenhills Alumni Homecoming on Saturday, Feb. 2.

The Peoria handicap system will be used.

This tournament is open to all La Salle alumni.

Sponsors are Unionbank Visa, Sherwood Hills Golf Club, Romago Electric, Interpo and Wilson Sports with the proceeds going to the Greenhills Adult Night High School.

For details, call the LSGHAA at 721-2729.



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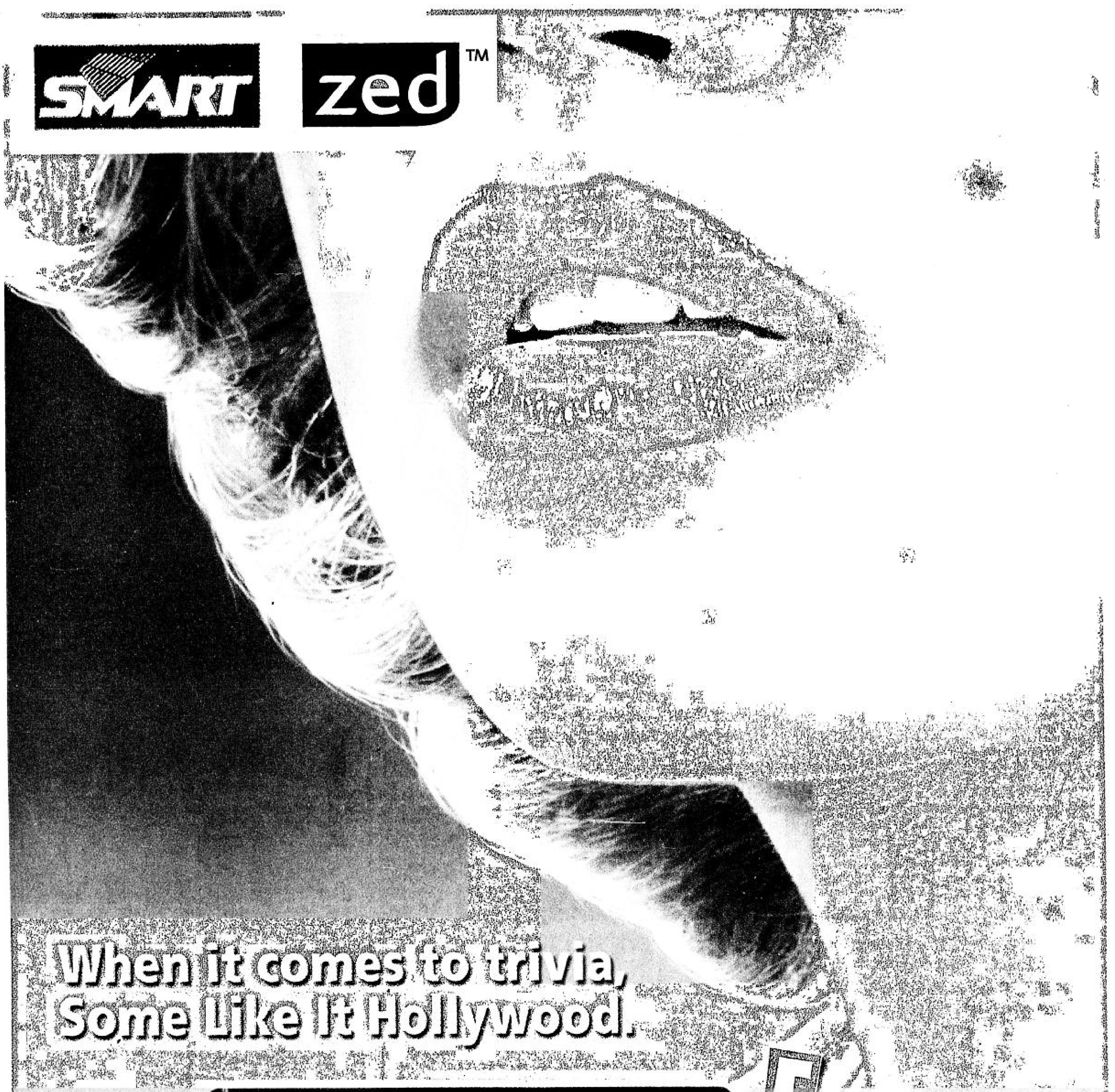

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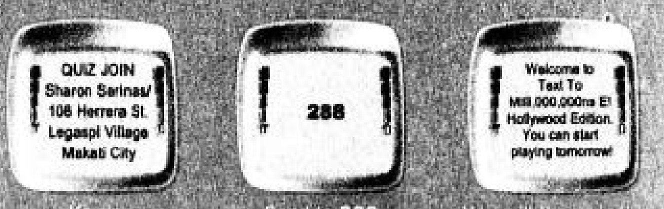

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TO RECEIVE THE DAILY QUESTIONS

Once a participant registers s/he will automatically receive the first question the following day. Questions will be sent to all registered participants everyday between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This is free of charge.

In case a participant wishes to start playing even before s/he receives the first question or doesn't receive the question right away, s/he can pull the question by keying in **Q** *and sending it to* **288**. *This is free of charge.*

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Key in **QUIZ** *space* **<QUESTION NUMBER>** *space* **<ANSWER>**
Example: **QUIZ 1 A**, and send to **288**.

Participants will be charged ₱2.50 for each answer s/he sends to 288 for the game. The participants will not be charged for questions received.

Prizes will be subject to a 20% withholding tax that will be shouldered by the winner.
See flyers for complete mechanics.
To get a list of keywords for other SMART zed services, type in **KEYS** and send **to 288**.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES

3 correct answers = 3 points = 1 raffle entry

Participants should finish answering the three (3) multiple choice questions by 12 midnight of the same day the questions were received in order to earn one raffle entry. A maximum of one (1) raffle entry can be made in one day. In the event that the participant fails to complete all three (3) correct answers for the day, his/her points will be carried over to the next day or until s/he completes three (3) correct answers within that same week. Participants may accumulate as many raffle entries as they can for the period of one week.

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES

Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**. The processing of points and raffle entries earned by each participant is done every 12 midnight, at the end of each day. The participant should check his/her standing before starting each game/day. *Rate for Quiz Entry is ₱2.50*

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME

Key in **HELP QUIZ** and send to **288**.

Promo period, draw dates and prizes are as follows:

WEEK	Draw Dates	Prizes
Week 1	January 14, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 2	January 21, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 3	January 28, 2002	₱50,000.00
First Monthly Draw	February 4, 2002	₱100,000.00
Week 4	February 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 5	February 18, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 6	February 25, 2002	₱50,000.00
Second Monthly Draw	March 4, 2002	₱200,000.00
Week 7	March 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 8	March 18, 2002	₱50,000.00
Week 9	March 25, 2002	₱50,000.00
Grand Draw	April 1, 2002	₱1,000,000.00

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METRO

Louie C. Camino, Editor

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Manila to improve Rizal Park, Roxas Blvd.** /A24
- **Lucky man lives after grenade 'hit'** /A24
- **Makati clamps down on cyber cafes** /A24

New LTO-MMDA policy to help ease traffic

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez
Contributor

Abalos (far left) of MMDA and Lastimoso of LTO warn that third-time violators will lose their license.

ROMY HOMILLADA

OFFICIALS of the Land Transportation Office and the Metro Manila Development Authority hope that a new policy can help ease traffic congestion in Metro Manila and prevent violence arising from quarrels over traffic.

MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. last Friday announced that the MMDA and LTO will now start revoking the licenses of private and utility vehicle drivers who violate traffic rules for the third time.

The two agencies will also revoke the franchises of utility vehicle operators whose drivers are found to be habitual traffic violators.

A driver whose license has been revoked will not be allowed to renew his licenses for at least a year, according to Abalos. The driver will also be made to undergo seminars on traffic rules and regulations before he is issued a new license.

"Traffic violations should not just be penal-

NEW LTO/ A24

ENGINEER May Bautista directs workers.

Model worker is a woman in a man's world

IN A squatter neighborhood in San Juan, a crowd gathers around a delicate-looking young woman in a hard-hat who is directing an all-male crew while fielding questions from residents.

The girl is Maidy Lynne E. Bautista and she is part of a work crew digging up one of the alleys in the neighborhood to root out a "live" water line tapped illegally into a mainline.

"We plan to cut and plug all illegal connections in the area and decommission the old line that supplies the neighborhood," Bautista announces to the crowd in Filipino. "After that, we'll provide you with new, affordable connections. But you have to help us get rid of the illegal lines because you pay more for water that is stolen by others. We all lose if we let that go on."

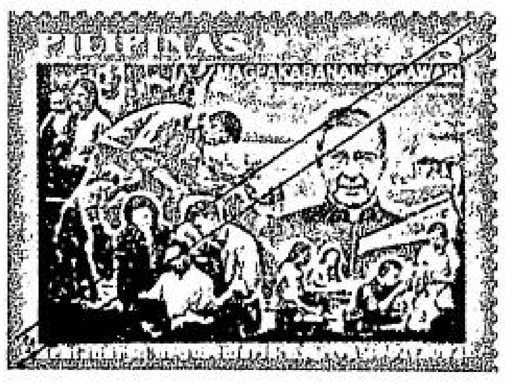
TALES OF THE CITY

Bautista can be as tough as her male counterparts. She has gone into the trenches and stayed with her all-male team into the wee hours, in the roughest neighborhoods, even outlasting members of her crew in coping with the demands of the job.

So it comes as no surprise when Bautista made it to the elite field of model employees of the Ayala-led water utility company Manila Water Co. servicing Metro Manila's east zone.

For her toughness and commitment to service, Bautista won the nod of an independent four-member panel of judges who gave her Manila Water's grand "Huwarang Manggagawa" (model worker) award this year.

MODEL WORKER/ A24



Philpost launches Escriva stamp

THE PHILIPPINE Postal Corp. (Philpost) has launched a commemorative stamp marking the birth centenary of Josemaria Escriva, priest and founder of Opus Dei.

"The inspiration brought by Escriva has contributed to the educational, cultural, and religious development as well as the upliftment of the poor in our country," Postmaster General

PHILPOST/ A24

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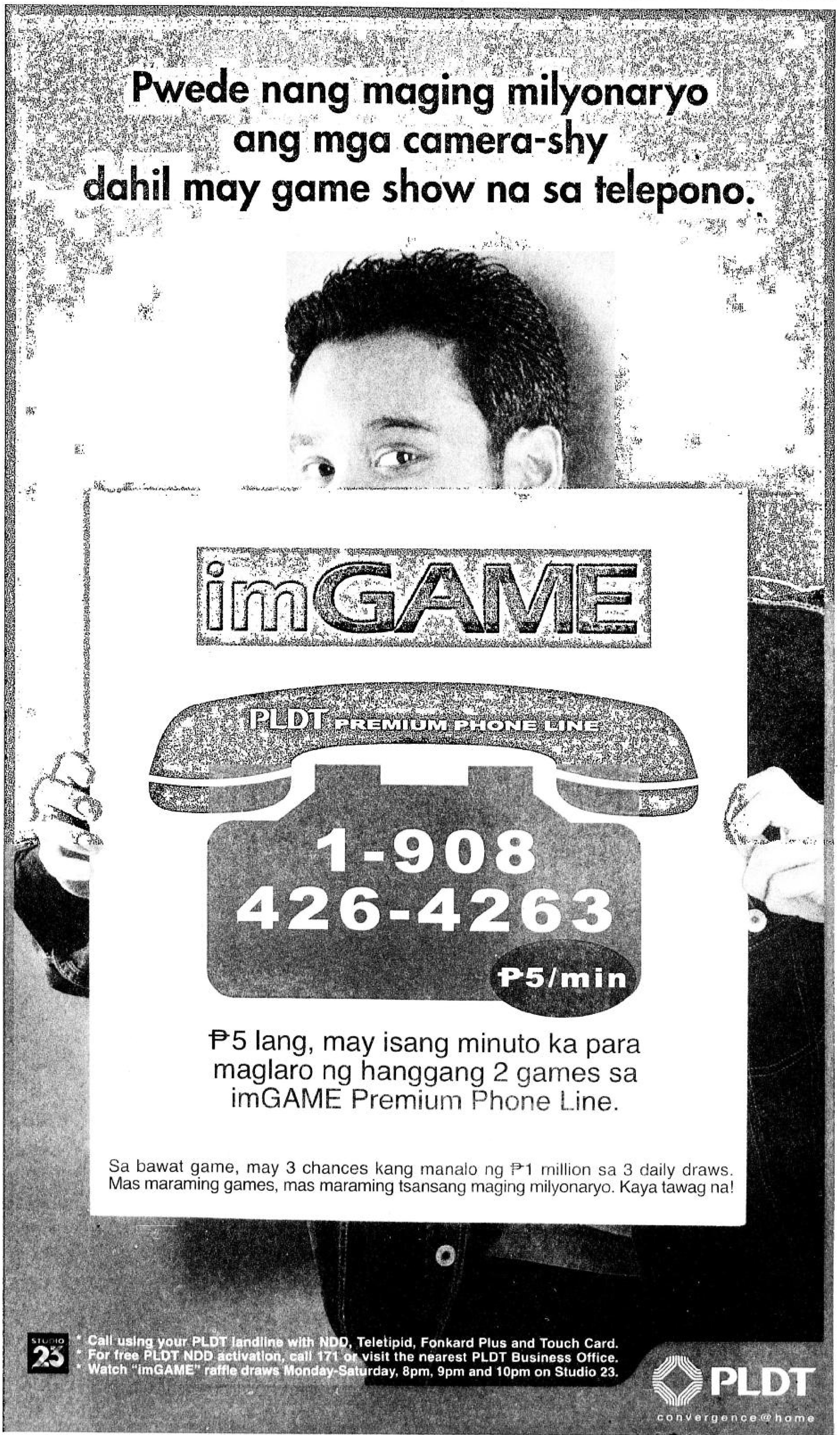

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Makati City clamps down on cyber cafes

By Alcuin Papa

MAKATI City officials are clamping down on owners of computer shops who have defied the order to ban schoolchildren from playing violent computer games in their premises during school hours.

In a statement released yesterday, Mayor Jejomar Binay said he would ask the City Council to immediately pass an ordinance that will ban the establishment of network gaming shops and video arcade centers near public and private schools in the city.

Binay said the construction and operation of computer gaming shops within 500 meters of schools will be prohibited. Shops already operating near schools will be given three years to relocate or face immediate closure.

Manila to improve Rizal Park, Roxas Blvd.

By Jerome Aning

THE IMPROVEMENT of the whole length of Roxas Boulevard in Manila will be the Manila City government's centerpiece project for this year, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Atienza told reporters during his recent media forum that the city government would be "more development-oriented" this year. Two of its projects are a boardwalk in Rizal Park and a promenade along Roxas Boulevard.

The two projects are linked to the inauguration of the improved Liwasang Bonifacio in February.

"Manila is the only city by the bay in the metropolis that has been able to preserve its frontage and we would like to maximize this advantage," Atienza said.

Under the Roxas Boulevard Redevelopment Plan, the promenade area along the shore will be given a facelift, including additional bright lights.

The area will also be cleared of vagrants, who will be assisted in looking for permanent shelters, according to Atienza.

When he was vice mayor and presiding officer of the city council in 1992, Atienza led councilors in passing City Ordinance No. 7777, which prohibits any reclamation project along the portion of Manila Bay within Manila's territorial jurisdiction.

Coastal promenade areas and beaches in Pasay, Parañaque and Las Piñas cities have been lost to reclamation projects, mainly business parks.

Atienza said the revitalization of the bay area would compliment the Luneta boardwalk, a joint project of the city and the Philippine Tourism Authority.

The Liwasan project caps the city's Central Manila Development Project.

City Hall is also intensifying its rehabilitation of the Pasig River bank and the city's old business center in Sta. Cruz and Quiapo.

Lucky man survives grenade 'hit'

By Nelson F. Flores

ELECTRICIAN Joel Erasmo of Marikina City is one very lucky man.

Police yesterday said Erasmo, 32, was asleep in a house at the corner of Molave and G. Del Pilar streets in Barangay Parang, when a fragmentation grenade was thrown inside the house. The grenade hit Erasmo in the head but did not explode.

Dazed, Erasmo get up from bed and got the surprise of his life when he saw a grenade nearby, without its safety pin.

He told police he carefully picked up the grenade and tiptoed out of the house and to a vacant lot about 10 meters away where he placed the grenade.

Erasmo then called the police for help. Members of the Marikina City police station Special Weapons and Tactics team arrived and exploded the grenade without harming anyone.

"I am so lucky I am still alive," Erasmo said. "I feel like I won the lottery, only my prize is priceless, my own life."

SPO4 Ernesto Rosal, Marikina City police station desk officer, said they were still trying to identify who threw the grenade.

New LTO . . .

(From page A23)

ized with suspension but with the revocation of licenses and franchises," Abalos said during the weekly Hotel Rembrandt media forum. "This is one way we can discipline our drivers and at the same time teach them how to obey rules and regulations."

The MMDA chair blamed erring drivers for the worsening traffic situation in Metro Manila.

"In other countries, revocation of licenses is being done," he said. "In these countries, drivers are more careful and they obey traffic laws."

The LTO has set up a nationwide database to monitor traffic violations, making it easier for the authorities to identify frequent traffic violators.

Also on Friday, LTO chair Roberto Lastimoso announced that the computerization program of the transportation office is now 89 to 92 percent complete.

By June, the computerization program in Metro Manila will have been 100 percent complete, according to him.

"By then, we will be able to fully implement the revocation of licenses and franchises," Lastimoso said.

Philpost . . .

(From page A23)

Nicasio Rodriguez said during the launch at the University of Asia and the Pacific last Friday. "It is therefore fitting that the Philippines honors him in his centenary."

Rodriguez also cited the work of Opus Dei since it began in the Philippines in 1964.

Josemaria Escriva was born in Barbastro, Spain on Jan. 9, 1902. He died in Rome in 1975 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1992.

Commemorative events to mark his 100th birth anniversary are being held around the world throughout 2002.

The stamp features a painting by award-winning Taytay artist Godofredo Zapanta Sr. It shows Escriva amid Filipinos at work in various professions and occupations. On the top right of the stamp is the inscription "Magpakabanal sa Gawain."

"At the core of Blessed Josemaria's teachings is the message that any honest work, done well, as a service to God and fellowmen, is a means for ordinary men and women to become saints," Rodriguez said.

Following the launching ceremony was the unveiling of the actual painting used for the stamp.

Centenary frames, souvenir folders, first day covers and stamps are available at the Philatelic Division of Philpost, Door 203, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila and at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Drive), Pasig City.

Model . . .

(From page A23)

It was a tight race, with the 25-year-old Mapua engineering graduate edging out by only a single point three other candidates in this traditionally male-dominated event.

Bautista, a slim, slightly built territory controller, works the sprawling San Juan/Mandaluyong area, a hodge-podge of commercial and residential areas spread over rolling terrain that makes water distribution an extreme challenge.

Bautista has an impressive string of achievements, which include the recovery of a large amount of non-revenue water (water lost to illegal connections or leaks) earning for the company an additional revenue of P2.8 million per month.

Bautista also put together three major projects that boosted supply to depressed communities in three areas in San Juan, benefiting more than 15,000 urban poor households in Santolan, J.A. Santos and V. Cruz streets.

Bautista earned the respect of an all-male team hardened by thousands of leak repair jobs and led the team's transformation from a group of "ordinary" workers into the No. 1 team in the water firm's San Juan-Mandaluyong Business Area.

"At the start, I wasn't sure how they would accept me as their leader," she said of the time she became territory controller and was put in charge of a group of men, some of whom are hardened MWSS veterans. This was shortly after she came out of the company's first cadetship program.

Bautista says she never wavered from her decision to enter the field and work ungodly hours.

Tupas, 47

FRANCISCO "Ike" Tupas, an environmentalist and executive director of the Academe Publishing House, passed away on Jan. 23 after a cardiac arrest. He was 47.

A son of the late Rudolfo G. Tupas, noted editor and former Philippine ambassador to Libya, Ike fought a lonely battle against unabated quarrying in the mountains of Montalban, now Rodriguez town.

He's survived by his wife Edna and children Juancho and Nico.

His body lies in state at the Daughters of Divine Zeal Chapel at the Cinco Hermanos Subdivision in Marikina.

Interment will be on Friday at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9 a.m. Mass.

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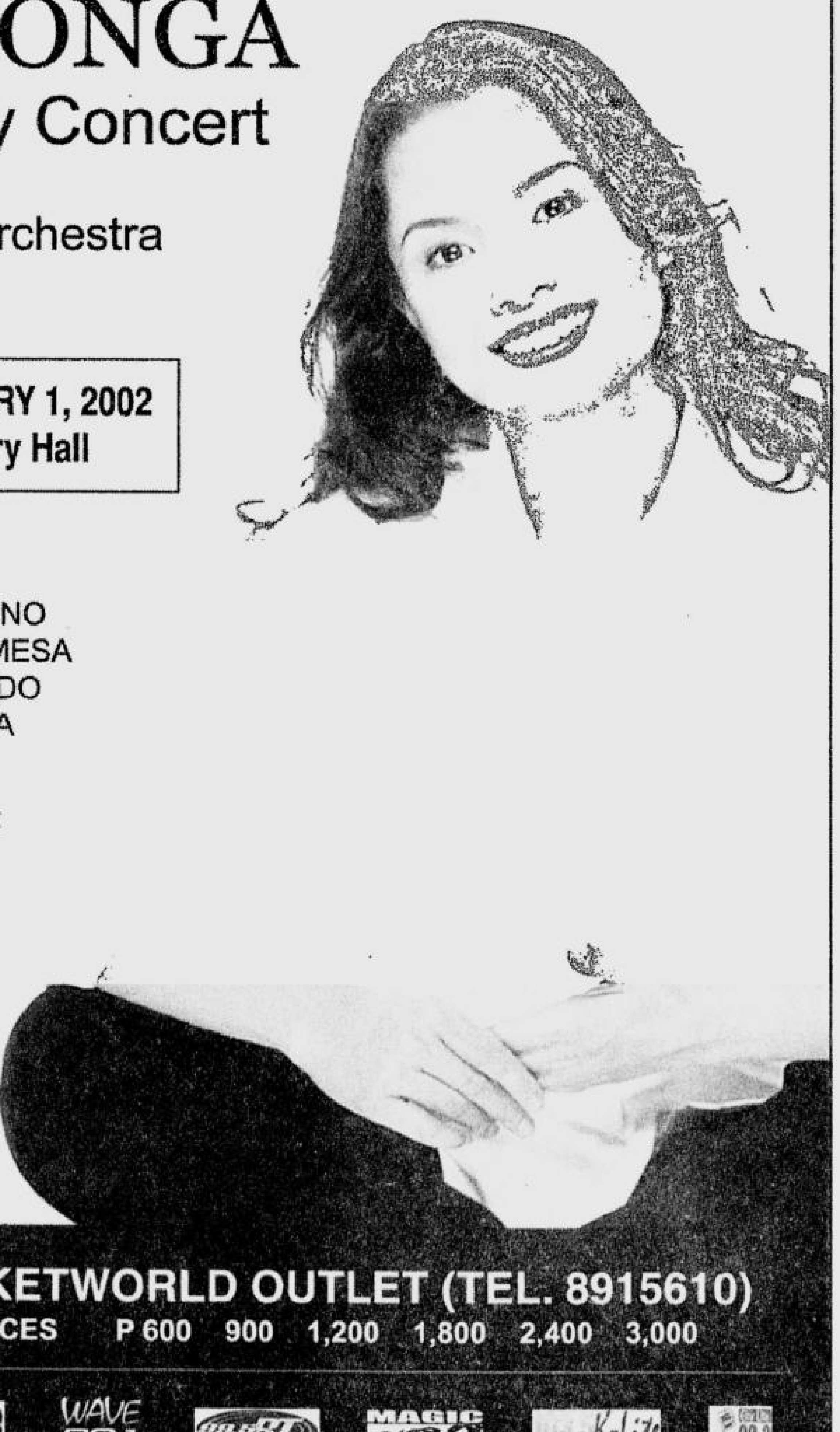

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4	AMERICAN ADOBO	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE OTHERS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICAN ADOBO	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CORKY ROMANO	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ZOOLANDER	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4 GOLD (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CORKY ROMANO
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
9	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
10	AMERICAN ADOBO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	BUKO PANDAN
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
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3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

starmall Movies
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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	BUKO PANDAN

METROPOLIS star
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1	CORKY ROMANO
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	THE OTHERS
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

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3	RESERVE
4	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
5	CORKY ROMANO
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 (SDDS)	THE OTHERS
9 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

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5	HUBOG
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7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BUKO PANDAN
9	BURLESK KING

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3	AMERICAN ADOBO
4	CORKY ROMANO
5 (SDDS)	THE OTHERS
6	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
7 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BURLESK KING

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

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3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

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Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

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3	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

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3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
5	THE OTHERS

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2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	CORKY ROMANO
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	BUKO PANDAN

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LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879.2029

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2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

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1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

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3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
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Lianas MovieCity
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4	BUKO PANDAN
5	AMERICAN ADOBO

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3	BUKO PANDAN

Olivarez Los Baños
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2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BUKO PANDAN

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BUKO PANDAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3	LORD OF THE RINGS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BUKO PANDAN
2	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
3	BURLESK KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BURLESK KING
2	ZOOLANDER
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
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7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	CORKY ROMANO
10	ZOOLANDER

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2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	THE OTHERS
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6	CORKY ROMANO
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

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2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	LORD OF THE RINGS OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	MAHAL KITA . . .
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES ZOOLANDER

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1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	MAHAL KITA . . .
6	MAHAL KITA . . .
7	ZOOLANDER
8	AMERICAN ADOBO

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2 8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
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5	AMERICAN ADOBO
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5	EARTHQUAKE
6	WALANG IWANAN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CORKY ROMANO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE OTHERS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	H'WAG KANG KIKIBO / ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ODEON-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ROBEN	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE HOLE / EARTHQUAKE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
REMAR-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CORKY ROMANO
CINEMA-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-2	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BURLESK KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-14	SPY GAME
CINEMA-15	AMERICAN ADOBO
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CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-5	CORKY ROMANO
CINEMA-6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
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(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
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10	BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	CORKY ROMANO
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	ZOOLANDER
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	THE OTHERS
6	MAHAL KITA . . .
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	MAHAL KITA . . .
11	BURLESK KING
12	BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	THE OTHERS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7	ON THE LINE
8	BURLESK KING
9	MAHAL KITA . . .
10	CORKY ROMANO
11	GLASS HOUSE
12	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	THE OTHERS
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	CORKY ROMANO
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	BURLESK KING
8	ZOOLANDER
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	MAHAL KITA . . .
11	MAHAL KITA . . .
12	GLASS HOUSE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	THE OTHERS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	ZOOLANDER
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9	BURLESK KING
10	SPY GAME
11	BUKO PANDAN
12	CORKY ROMANO

SM SOUTHMALL
8060008 • 8069792

1	THE OTHERS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	BURLESK KING
6	BUKO PANDAN
7	MAHAL KITA . . .
8	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
9	ZOOLANDER
10	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY CEBU
2313976

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BURLESK KING
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7	SPY GAME
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MUSKETEERS
2	CLOSED
3	SPY GAME
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7	CLOSED
8	ON THE LINE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7126015

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	MAHAL KITA . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	THE OTHERS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	MAHAL KITA . . .

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820005

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	MAHAL KITA . . .

SM CITY TUTUBAN
2514302

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	THE OTHERS

SM CITY DAVAO
2974004

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	BURLESK KING
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	WALANG IWANAN
5	AMERICAN AOBO
6	GLASS HOUSE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
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4

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4 NEW
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VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

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2
3
4

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2

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THE OTHERS
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Very Filipino . . .

(FROM PAGE A29)

shops in February: Basic and Advanced Acting for Film and TV, Basic and Advanced Newscasting, News Reporting, News Production, TV Production and Commercial Production.

The acting courses will be taught by **Beverly Vergel**, workshop and artist training manager. The TV Production class will be handled by ABS-CBN executive producer **Eloisa Matias**. Commercial Production will be taught by director **Jon Aliño**.

Other teachers: **Kata Inocencio** for Newscasting, **Mon Ilagan** for News Reporting, and **Ira Panganiban** for breaking news and managing a news team. Call 415-2272, extension 5142.

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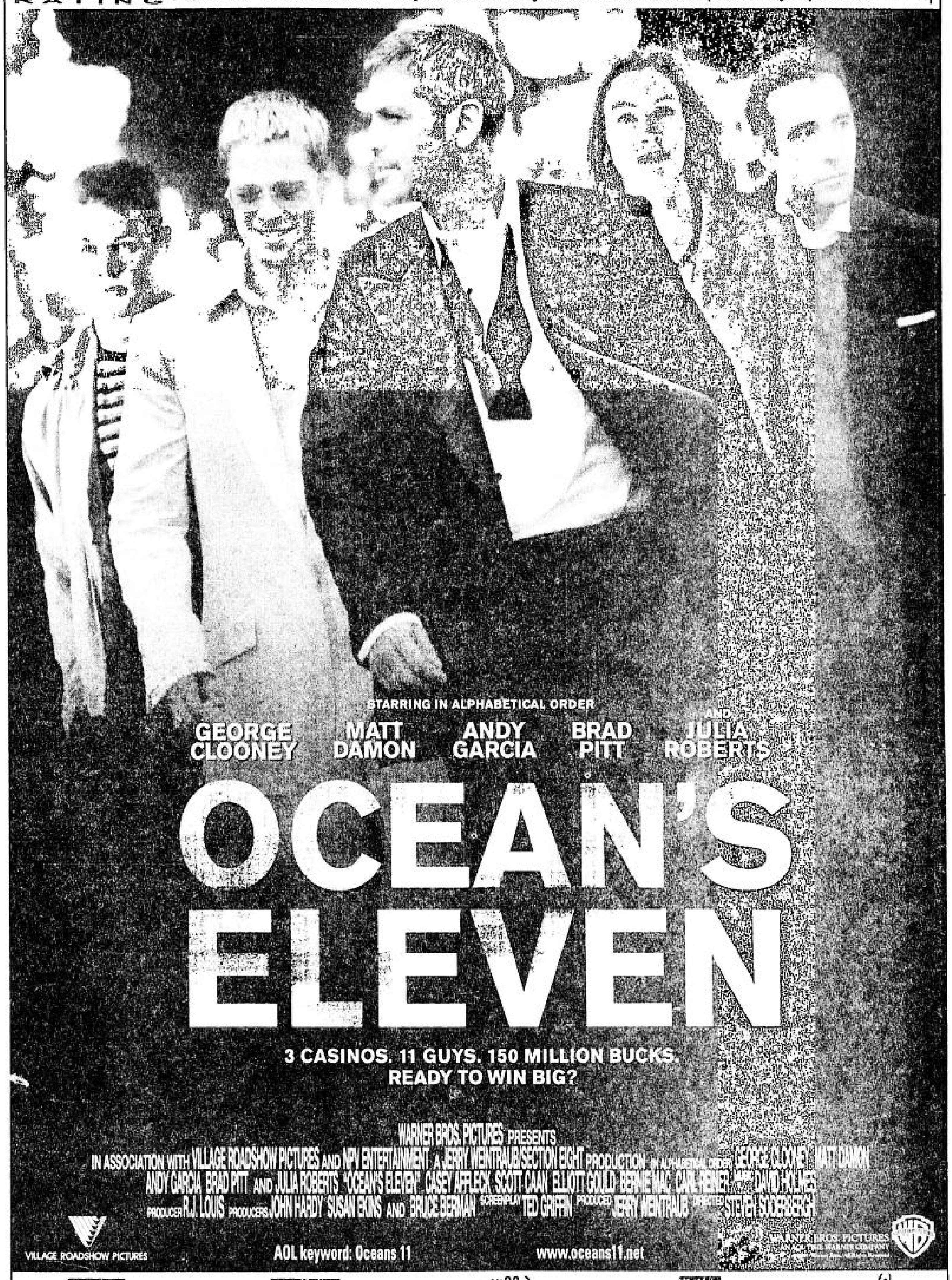
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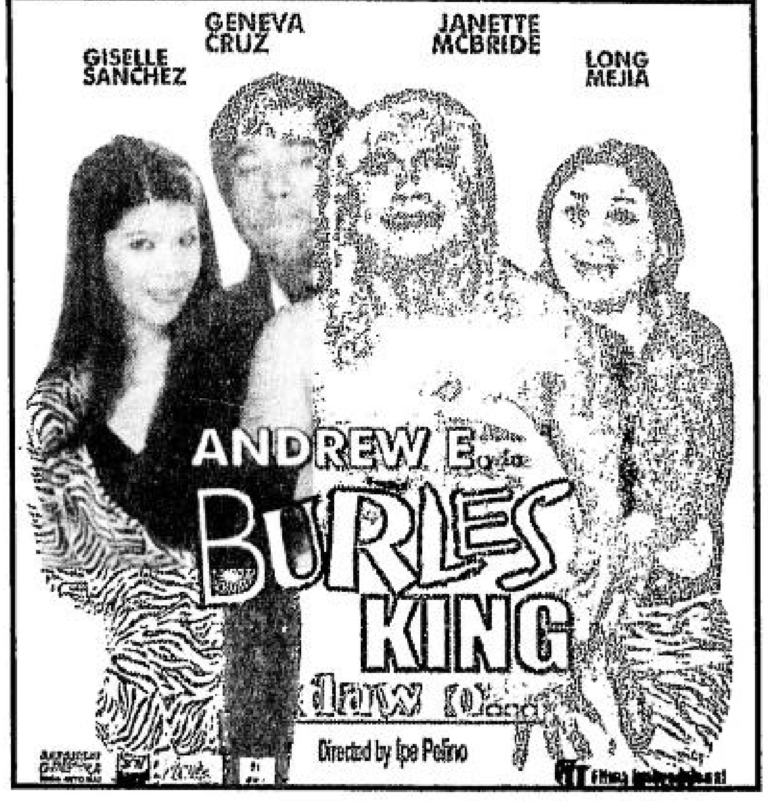
GENEVA CRUZ
JANETTE MCBRIDE
GISELLE SANCHEZ
LONG MEJIA
ANDREW E.
BURLES KING
Directed by Ipe Peñino

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"★★★★"
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"A CAPTIVATING MOVIE EXPERIENCE. ANTHONY HOPKINS CREATES A FASCINATING MYSTIQUE."
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"A QUIETLY POWERFUL, BEAUTIFULLY BURNISHED DEPTH CHARGE OF A MOVIE."
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ANTHONY HOPKINS
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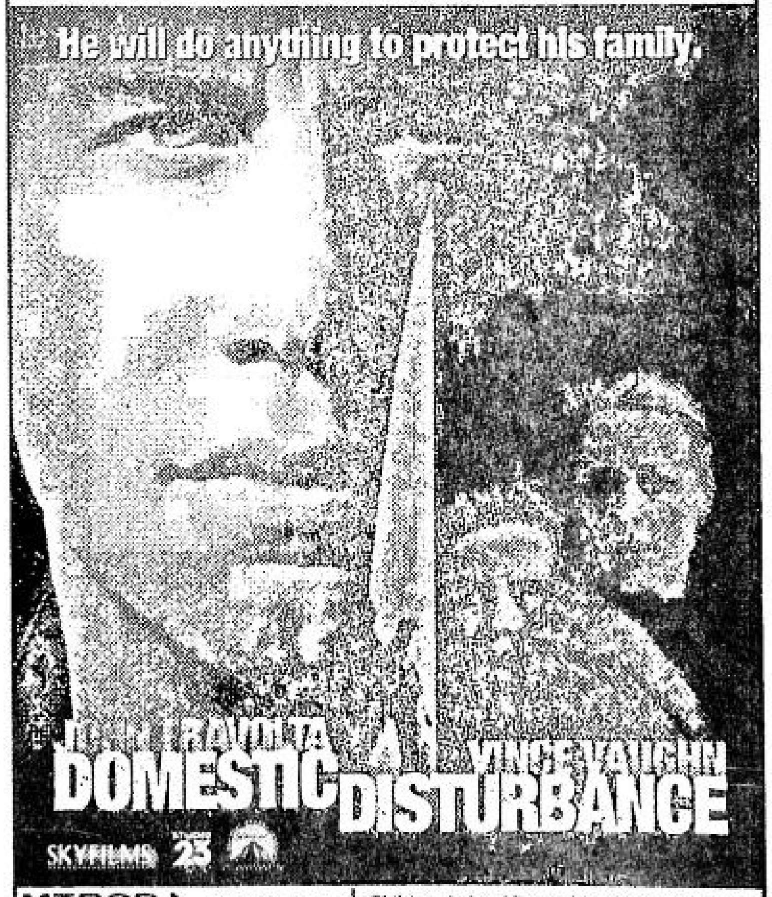
He will do anything to protect his family.
JOHN TRAVOLTA
VINCE VAUGHN
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'PROOF'

Lea has some difficulty in gripping straight play

By Paul Daza

REVIEW

IT'S gripping! It's involving! It makes mathematics alluring! It's the Manila run of the Pulitzer-prize-winning play "Proof"!

In a very quiet, unspectacular way, "Proof," the new award-winning drama by playwright David Auburn, is an intriguing stage production that's a cause for rejoicing. "Proof" won four trophies in the 2001 Tony Awards, including Best Play.

"Proof," which ends its run at the GSIS Theater today, is the story of the troubled daughter of a famous mathematician. But as one Internet summary says, the play "is less about mathematics than it is about relationships—between father and daughter, between mind and the heart."

The Manila edition of "Proof" stars Lea Salonga, Joel Trinidad, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Michael de Mesa. Those who are expecting a flashy visual and musical extravaganza like "Miss Saigon" may be disappointed, because "Proof" is directed with unadorned storytelling efficiency by Bobby Garcia. It doesn't boast of any acrobatic warbling or expensive, gimmicky sets.

What "Proof" does have is an elegantly structured, wonderful plot that shimmers with surprises and delicate insights about fragile families and human nature. I can't remember any other play whose ability to grab the viewer was predicated solely on the question of whether or not the lead character (Catherine, played by Salonga) is lying or telling the truth about something important.

To reveal what that "something" is would be to ruin the play for those who'd like to see "Proof" for themselves. I enjoyed the play precisely because I had no idea what to expect. All I was told was that it wasn't a musical, and nothing about the poster suggested what the show was about. I was ready for anything, and that's why every little twist and revelation in the unfolding plot got its intended reaction.

Two views

I also had the unique opportunity to review the play from two very different seats: the first from the rear left of the auditorium, the second from the right side just a couple of rows from the stage itself.

If there's one quibble I have with Bobby Garcia's blocking, it's this: If you're seated in the left side of the GSIS theater, you're liable to miss significant portions of Salonga's arresting performance because her long hair obscures her beautiful face when she's arguing with a costar who's on the right side of the stage, which happens at least twice in the first act.

After the first act, I sat in the right side of the theater, near the stage. There, everything was perfect. I saw every nuance on Salonga's face as she defended herself against a sister (Lauchengco) who thinks she's crazy, and a one-night-stand named Hal (Joel Trinidad), who doesn't know if she's a genius or a liar.

If you're watching this play primarily to see Salonga, I respectfully suggest that you ask for tickets in the right side of the theater if all the middle seats are taken.

Exciting

Although "Proof" comes to Manila in record time after it won four Tonys last year, there is a line or two which dates the play as having been written before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the USA. It's a scene where Claire is trying to convince Catherine to move to New York from Chicago, because "it's safe there."

The story itself is fresh and exciting. Watching "Proof," I was reminded of the book "The Double Helix," which chronicled the factual race to discover the structure of the DNA molecule in the early '50s in England. Enjoying that book the way I did while I was in high school proved to me beyond a shadow of a doubt that I was a nerd.

The riddle that lies at the heart of "Proof" gave me that same rush of excitement I remember feeling while reading "The Double Helix." Those who are involved in the academe in one way or another will surely enjoy "Proof" more than those who don't.

The play should be required viewing for mathematicians and scientists because it makes cranky geniuses and their intellectual pursuits seem exciting and galvanizing. When it was revealed in the middle of "Proof" that there's a theorem which states that multiplying a prime number by two and adding one to it will give you another prime number, I couldn't stop doing it in my head until I realized I was missing the play.

Playwright David Auburn also injects much-needed comedy and romance into a story that's full of tension. There's a cute joke about imaginary numbers, and enough put-downs about scientists and mathematicians to make athletes and jocks look like normal people.

Memorable

The cast, a couple of whom are from Bobby Garcia's recent staging of "Rent," works very well as an ensemble. As Catherine's brilliant mathematician father, Michael de Mesa is splendid. He's especially memorable in the scene where he's struggling with the loss of his intellectual prowess and trying to be productive in the freezing cold.

De Mesa's only problem is that the quality of his English isn't as smooth as the rest of the cast, who speak English like they were born and raised in America. Blame De Mesa's more than 20 years in the local entertainment industry.

As Hal, the geeky but attractive grad student whose nosiness triggers the plot, Joel Trinidad is perfectly cast. He brings the right combination of earnestness, intelligence and duplicity which the role clearly required. The way Trinidad plays Hal, it makes perfect sense that someone as smart as Catherine would be attracted to him.

As Catherine's protective sister Claire, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo is also wonderful. She starts out playing Claire as a matchmaker who's thrilled when her younger sister appears to be attracted to a man, and gradually becomes something akin to an evil stepsister. At the end of "Proof," Claire has become a totally different character. That the viewer can't detect the transformation is a tribute to the subtlety of Lauchengco's work.

'F' word

And Lea Salonga?

Just last year, she played the 17-year-old Kim convincingly, even though she's already in her late twenties. In "Proof," Salonga lays a disturbed mathematician in her mid-twenties, closer to the talented actress' real age. Through the quality of her voice and more mature body language, she infuses Catherine with a cynical edge and more world-weariness than the role of Kim demanded.

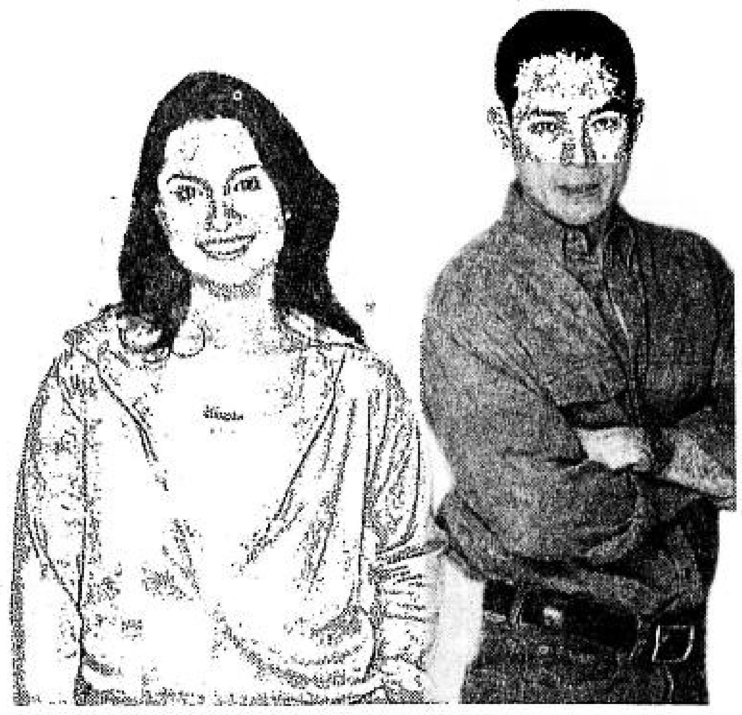
Salonga also uses the "f" word a lot, and so "Proof" isn't something pre-teen Lea fans should see.

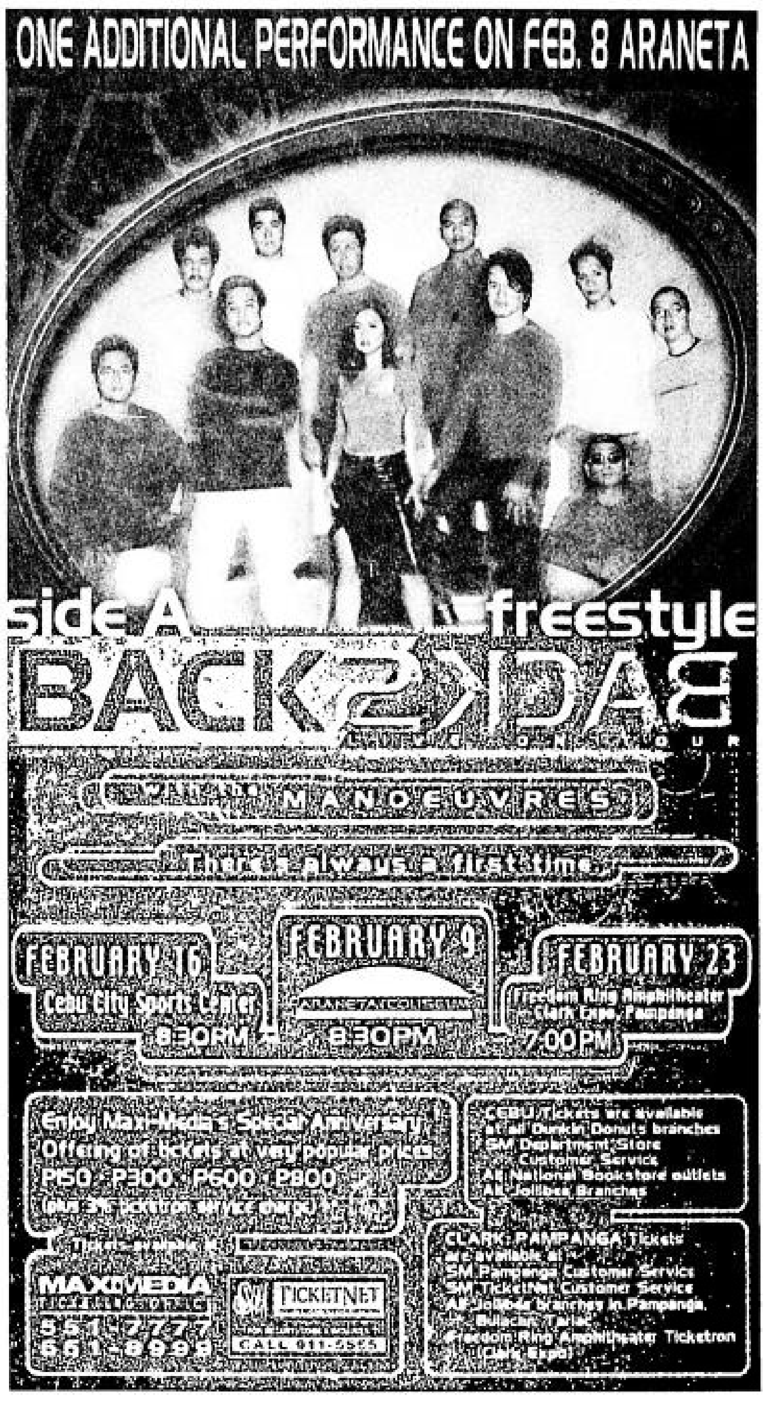
Clearly though, the fact that she's an award-winning dramatic actress may be the reason why Salonga has some difficulty with comedy. She uses the Gen X expression "eeww" twice in the play, and I felt that the line could be delivered with more comic grace, the way Lisa Kudrow and Courteney Cox use the expression so naturally on many episodes of the TV sitcom "Friends."

It must be said, though, that Salonga delivers the other funny lines with aplomb, especially the sarcastic ones.

The only other quibble I have with "Proof" concerns a prop. A notebook and what's written on it is the most crucial object in the play, yet when the audience glimpses the notebook, it's completely blank. Why didn't the art director or production designer actually fill the notebook with handwritten notes? It gets in the way of the viewer's ability to willingly suspend disbelief.

Such details, however, are minor considerations that are easy to fix, or dismiss. "Proof" is enthralling.


SALONGA and Trinidad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After making longest RP movie, Lav tackles worst-case scenario

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

DIRECTOR **Lav Diaz** has made only a handful of films so far, but what an impressive handful!

Moviegoers first met Lav when he made his directorial debut three years ago, "Kriminal ng Barrio Concepcion," which was screened in the international film festival circuit, including the Toronto Film Festival.

David Overbey of the Toronto Filmfest described Lav as a "young new director whose works strike the viewer with his terribly original brand of cinema."

Lav's sophomore attempt at filmmaking, "Lumakad Kang Hubad sa Ilalim ng Buwan," also earned for him critical acclaim and was also shown abroad.

Then Lav made film history last year when he completed his five-hour opus, "Batang Westside," filmed in New York. The movie has yet to be shown here.

In his latest masterpiece, Lav brings his radical vision to the fore in "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo." Directing from his own screenplay, Lav takes a peek into the Filipino apocalypse, drawing inspiration from contemporary events.

"If no dramatic change happens in our country, all the democratic gains we have made in our past struggles will surely be endangered," he maintains. "This is the premise of my latest film. It is a peek at the worst-case scenario."

"Hesus Rebolusyonaryo" is set nine years into the future with the backdrop of an apocalyptic era. A military junta has overturned the Philippine republic and established a dictatorship. Martial Law is declared. Rebels are hunted down and killed. Hapless civilians are massacred.

DIRECTOR Joel Lamangan plays a soldier who tortures Mark Anthony Fernandez in the latest Lav Diaz opus, "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo."

In the nightmare scenario stands one man, Hesus Mariano, played by **Mark Anthony Fernandez**.

"I was very excited to do this movie because it has a different kind of story," says Mark. "It's my first time to work with a young director who has very good ideas."

Donita Rose makes a rare film appearance and plays Mark's love interest in the story.

No bad blood

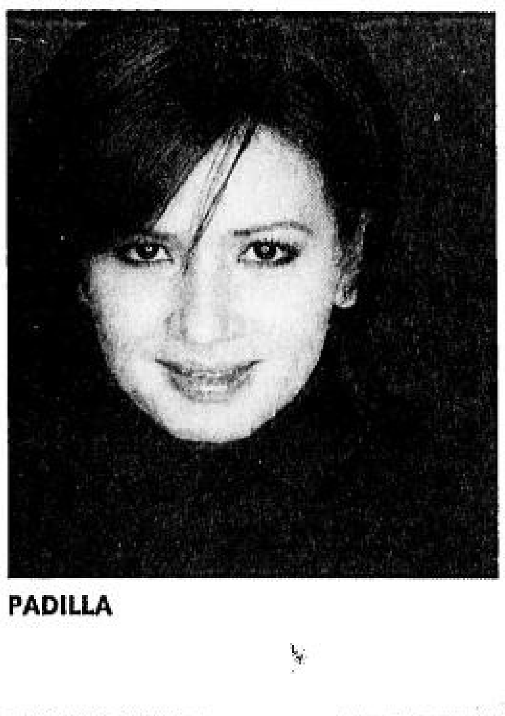
ZSA Zsa Padilla immediately quashes reports that her recording company, Viva Records, sued her when she signed up with ABS-CBN's Star Records after her contract with the former company expired.

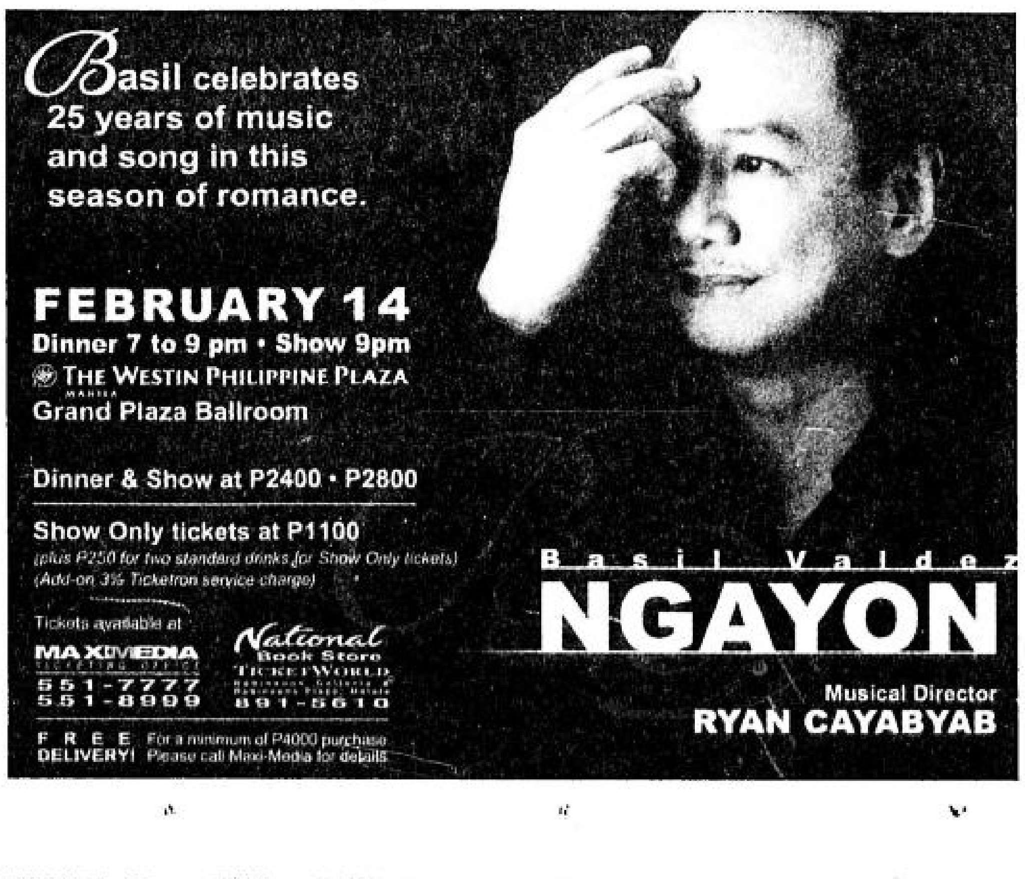
"My understanding about my contract with Viva is that it was only for two years," Zsa Zsa explains. "I didn't know it was also stipulated that they have an option for four more years after it expired."

Still, Zsa Zsa clarifies there's no bad blood between her and Viva Records.

"It was a good thing the people from ABS-

AFTER/ A28


PADILLA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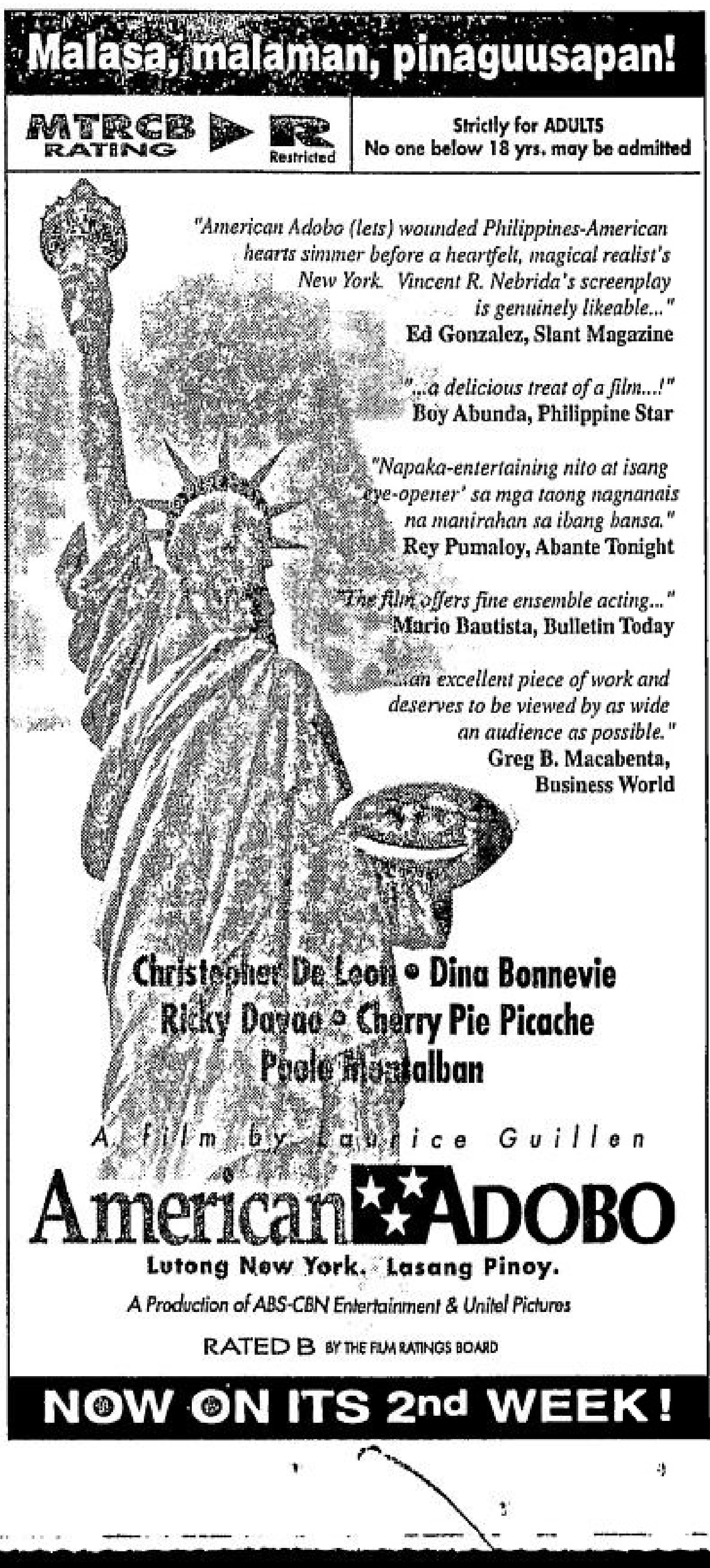
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"American Adobo (lets) wounded Philippines-American hearts simmer before a heartfelt, magical realist's New York. Vincent R. Nebrida's screenplay is genuinely likeable..."
Ed Gonzalez, Slant Magazine
"...a delicious treat of a film...!"
Boy Abunda, Philippine Star
"Napaka-entertaining nito at isang 'eye-opener' sa mga taong nagnanais na manirahan sa ibang bansa."
Rey Pumaloy, Abante Tonight
"The film offers fine ensemble acting..."
Mario Bautista, Bulletin Today
"...an excellent piece of work and deserves to be viewed by as wide an audience as possible."
Greg B. Macabenta, Business World
Christopher De Leon • Dina Bonnevie
Ricky Davao • Cherry Pie Picache
Paolo Montalban
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NOW ON ITS 2nd WEEK!

Stars, politicians grace grand opening of Greenhills Theater Mall

THE NEWLY renovated Greenhills Theater Mall holds its grand opening ceremonies today.

The affair starts at dawn with fun run at 5:30 a.m., to be led by the artists and officers of the Katipunan ng mga Artistang Pilipino sa Pelikula at Telebisyon (KAPPT).

At night is the star-studded opening ceremonies, with top personalities in entertainment, politics and sports as guests: Sen. Loren Legarda Leviste, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, sexy star Ara Mina, Ronnie Ricketts, Alice Dixson, veteran actress Caridad Sanchez, Jeffrey Santos, pop diva Kuh Ledesma, director Jose Javier Reyes, Rowell Santiago, Viva big boss Vic del Rosario, basketball star Vince Hizon, KAPPT President German Moreno, and chair and president of Ortigas and Co. Atty. Rafael Ortigas Jr.

After the blessing, there will be a live concert featuring Regine Velasquez, Kuh Ledesma, Pilita Corrales, the Apo Hiking Society, Ogie Alcasid and Ara Mina, plus bands like Mulatto, Parliament Syndicate and Retrospect.

TV host Boy Abunda with Greenhills Theater Mall owner Precy Florentino.

After making longest . . .

(FROM PAGE A27)

CBN are also my friends, so they understood what happened after I talked to them," she says. "But I also apologized to Boss **Vic (del Rosario)** because I was not aware of the contents of my contract."

Zsa Zsa's latest album, "In My Life," is a live recording of her birthday concert at Captain's Bar last June, released by Viva Records.

Selections include songs in her repertoire like "Time After Time," "Don't Throw It All Away," "Say A Little Prayer," "What the World Needs Now," "Sweet Dreams" and a medley of **Barbra Streisand** songs ("Memories," "Everytime I Look at You," "Papa Can You Hear Me" and "A Piece of Sky").

Zsa Zsa also included a medley of the songs composed by her musical director, **Louie Ocampo**, like "Tell Me," "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," "Kahit Isang Saglit" and "Point of No Return," which is her original hit.

Zsa Zsa laments she cannot record new versions of her signature hits like "Kahit Na," "Ikaw Lamang" and "Hiram" due to a ruling issued by the Philippine Association of Record Industries (PARI). Prior to the live album, she released an all-revival album, "Sentiments."

Middle of this year, Zsa Zsa is set to record an all-original album. She will also record with **Gary Valenciano** in the "Duets" album to be released by Viva.

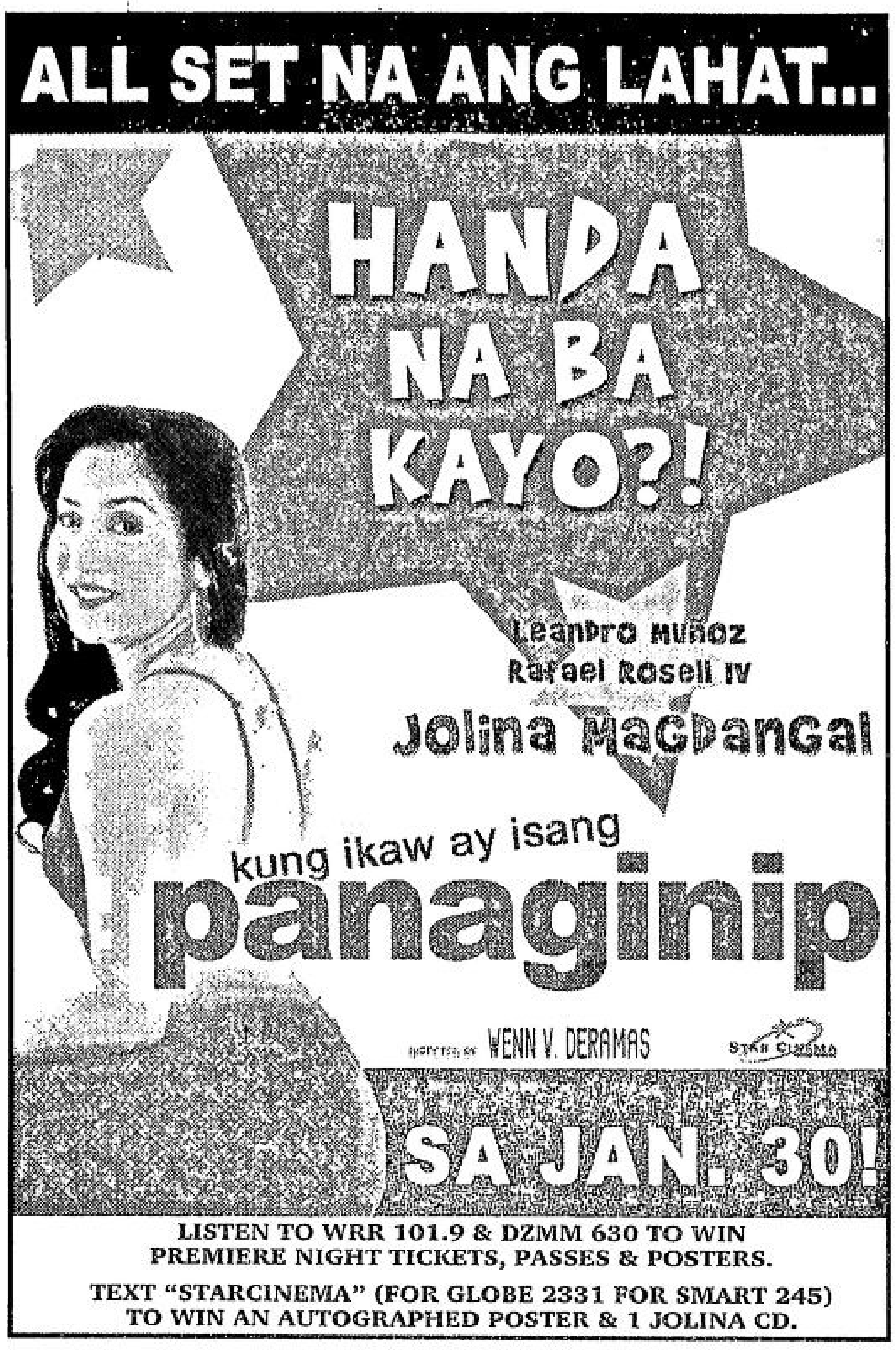
Zsa Zsa did not accept a Valentine's Day show this year. "I need to rest my voice for a month," she says.

But she plans to return to TV acting as a mainstay on the ABS-CBN soap "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka."

"I had to leave the telenovela when **Vandolph** had an accident last November," she says. "But when I wanted to go back, they were not ready to take me in. Now, I was told they could make my character return to the series."

In "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka," Zsa Zsa plays mom to **Judy Ann Santos**.

"I don't have qualms playing mom to Judy Ann," she says. "The year before, I was also mom to **Jolina (Magdangal)** in 'Labs Ko si Babe.' I also played mom to **Patrick Garcia** in 'Batang PX.' I no longer have the illusion that I'm a single woman playing cute roles on TV."


ALL SET NA ANG LAHAT...
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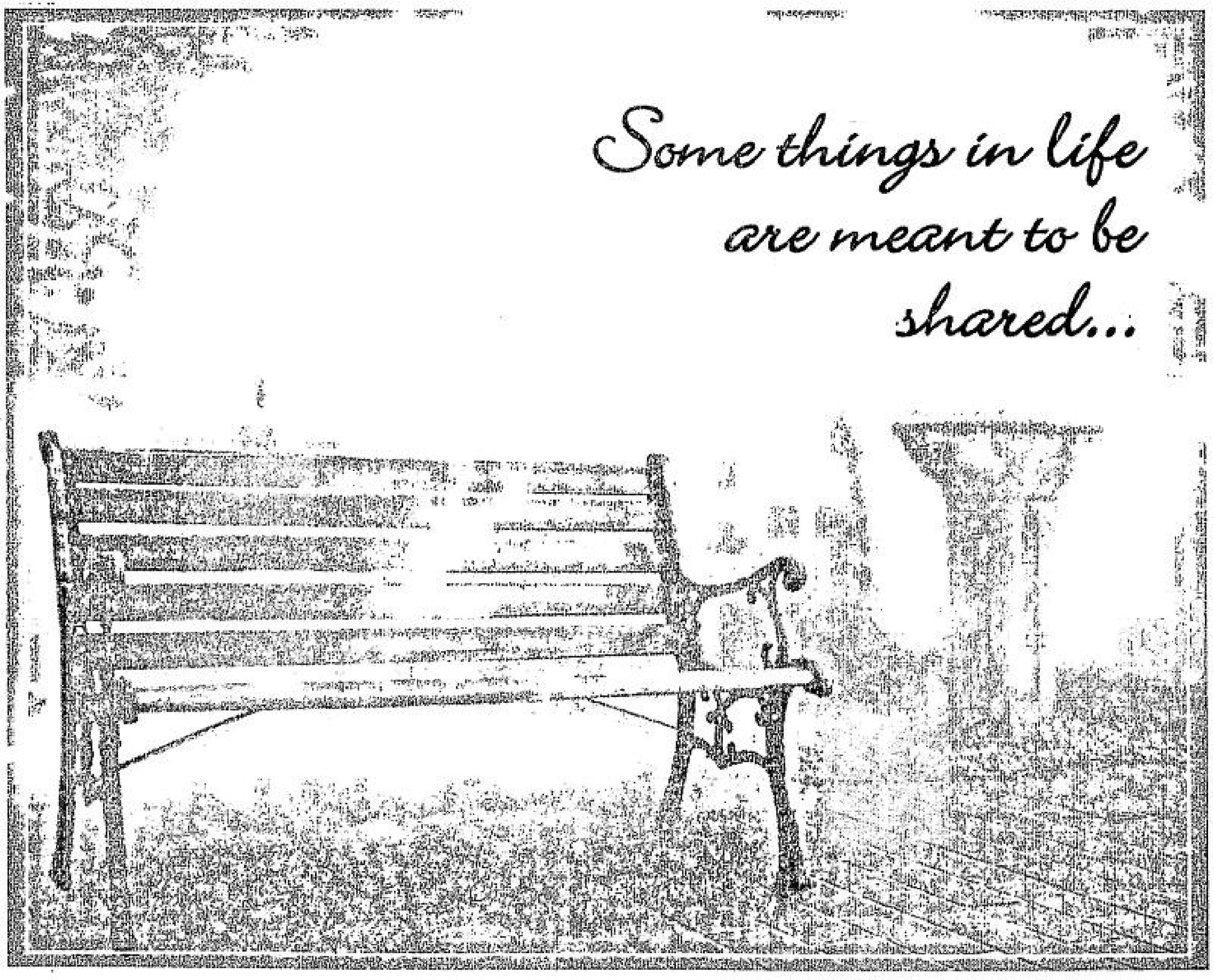
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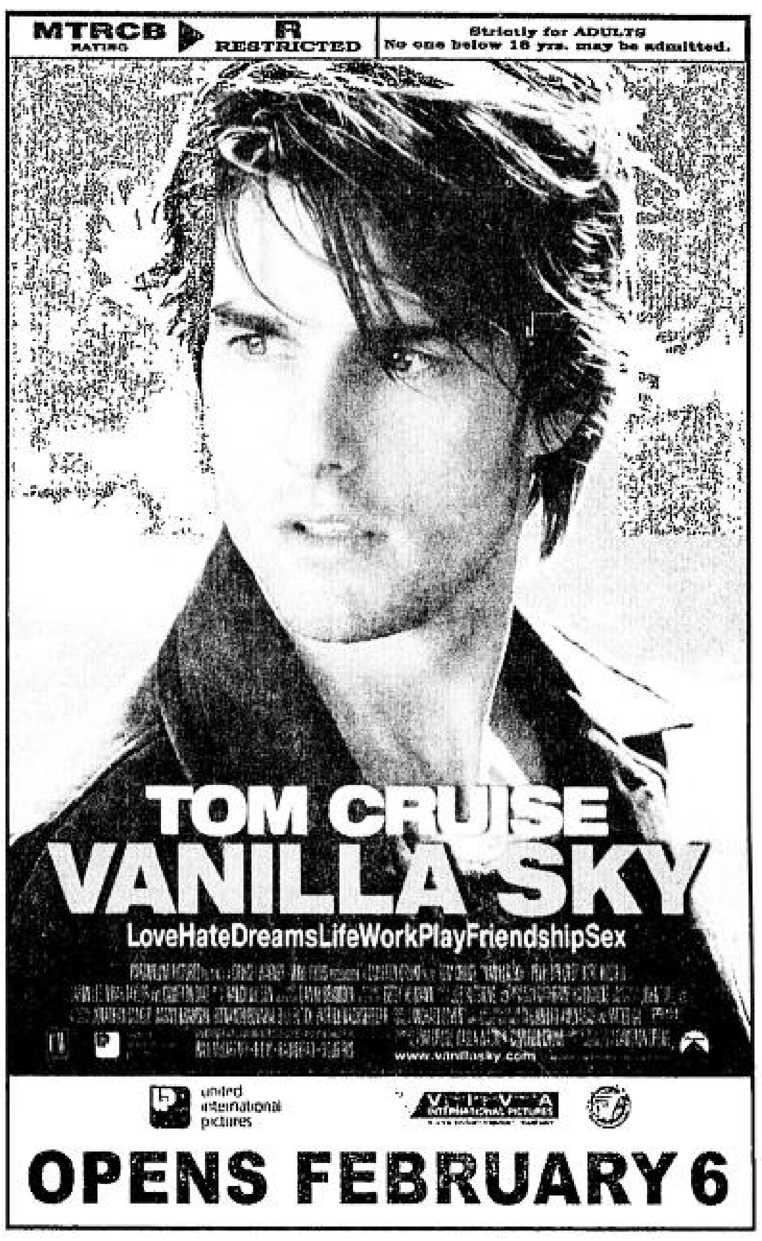
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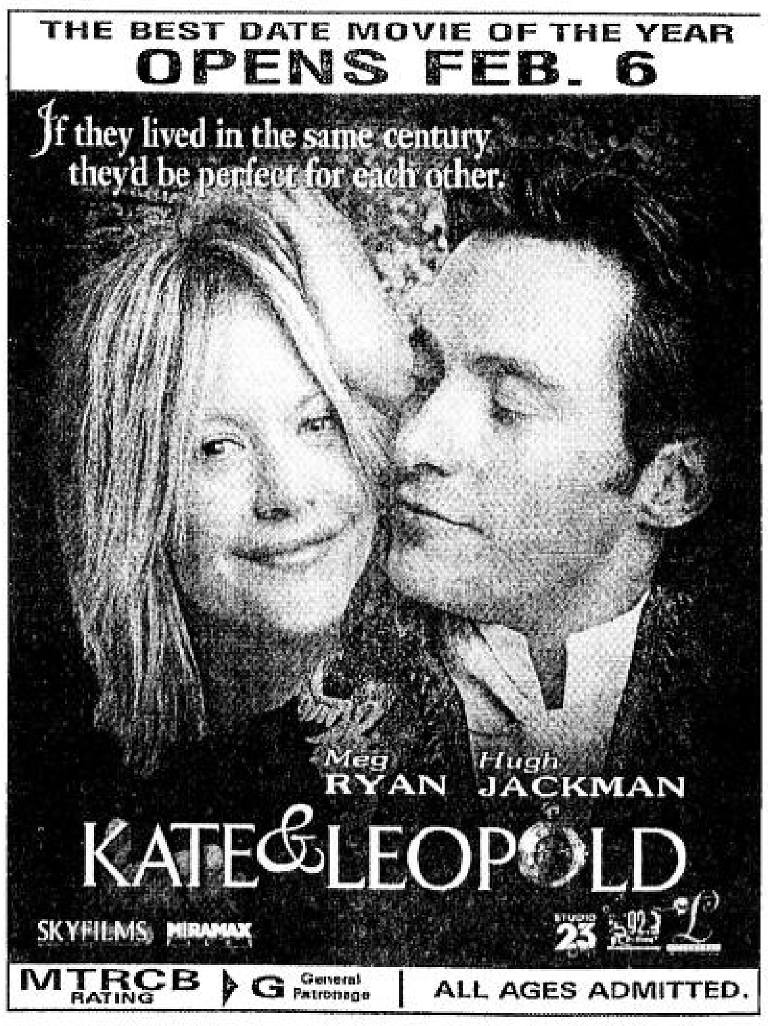
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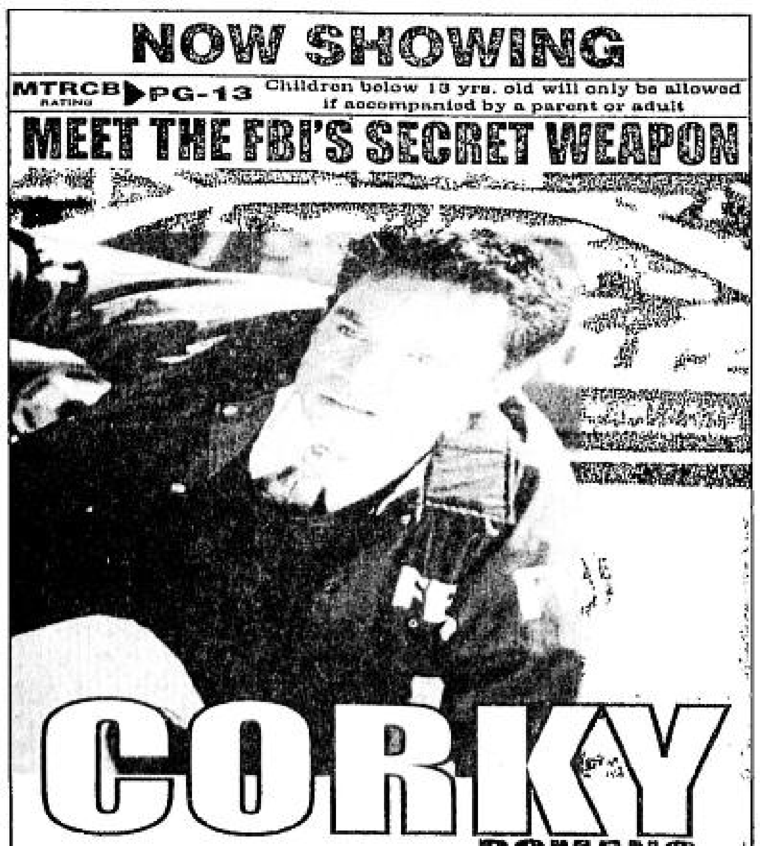
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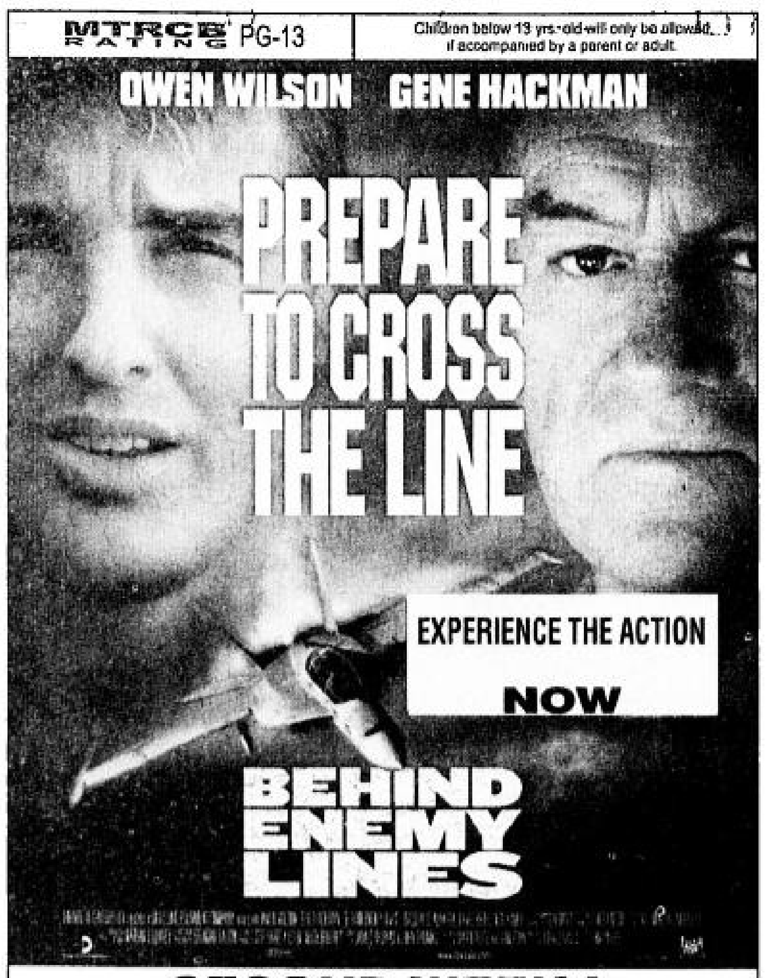
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BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	CORKY ROMANO - P13 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00

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ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Very Filipino game show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

GMA 7 has come up with a very Pinoy game show in "Video-K," telecast at 7 p.m. every Sunday and hosted by **Arnel Ignacio**. The new program has seven contestants each week who are required to sing snatches of songs and fill in some blanks in the lyrics.

If they get the lyric right, they win a cash prize. The night's big winner could make a million bucks—not bad for an hour's work, or singing.

Last Sunday, the celebrity contestants were **Victor Wood**, **Renz Verano**, **Claire de la Fuente** and four sexy singers. The male singers got eliminated early because they couldn't come up with the correct missing lyrics, while other contestants were eliminated in succeeding rounds by a "bitchy" panel of judges, until only Claire was left to vie for the top prize, which she unfortunately didn't get (she made P150,000).

Claire may not have gone home a millionaire that night, but viewers appreciated her fine singing voice and madcap vitality. It's been a while since Claire has sung in public, so her appearance on the new game show was a welcome reminder of her unique, husky voice and sultry vocal styling.

Arnel kept things sassy but friendly with his good-natured cracks, often at the contestants' expense. They didn't seem to mind, though, and they were good sports even when they were kicked out of the competition.

The new show is very Filipino because we are unique in our "national" singing prowess and our ability to memorize the lyrics of many songs. In fact, we have a veteran singer-friend who prides himself in knowing the lyrics of 700 songs! Hey, maybe we should urge him to join the show?

Uh, on second thought, maybe not. He knows only classics from the '30s to the '60s, and quite a number of the songs featured on the program are from the '80s and '90s.

In any case, our interest in the new game show eventually palled because it soon became apparent that, aside from singing ability and mastery of lyrics, the program doesn't require much from its contestants.

If you know that lyrics of a featured song, you're fine. But, if you don't know a song, that's it for you. You can try to guess or otherwise finesse your way through the unfamiliar song, but your ignorance will eventually show.

Given this narrow requirement in terms of ability, the show quickly becomes predictable. To sustain interest, variations should be thought up—fast!

Movies on TV

ON the Cinemax movie channel next month, watch out for these exceptional films for the first 10 days of February:

Feb. 2, Saturday at 11:15 p.m., "Psycho" (the **Tony Perkins** starrer, hopefully).

Feb. 3, Sunday at 3:30 a.m., "Romeo and Juliet."

Feb. 5, Tuesday at 8 a.m., "Cry Freedom."

Feb. 7, Thursday at 3:15 p.m., "Breakfast at Tiffany's." At 9 p.m., "The Green Mile."

Feb. 8, Friday at 10 a.m., "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

Feb. 9, Saturday at 10:45 a.m., "Stand and Deliver."

Feb. 10, Sunday at 11:55 p.m., "Blind Date."

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BEN STILLER
A new comedy from the star of
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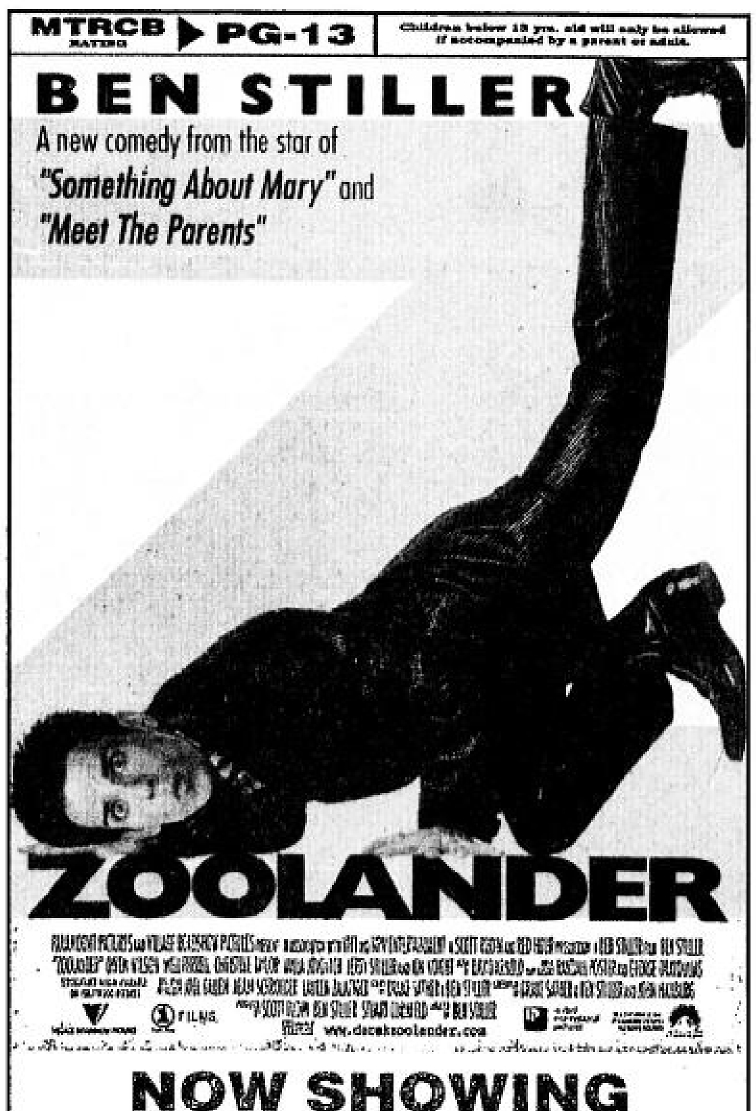
"Meet The Parents"



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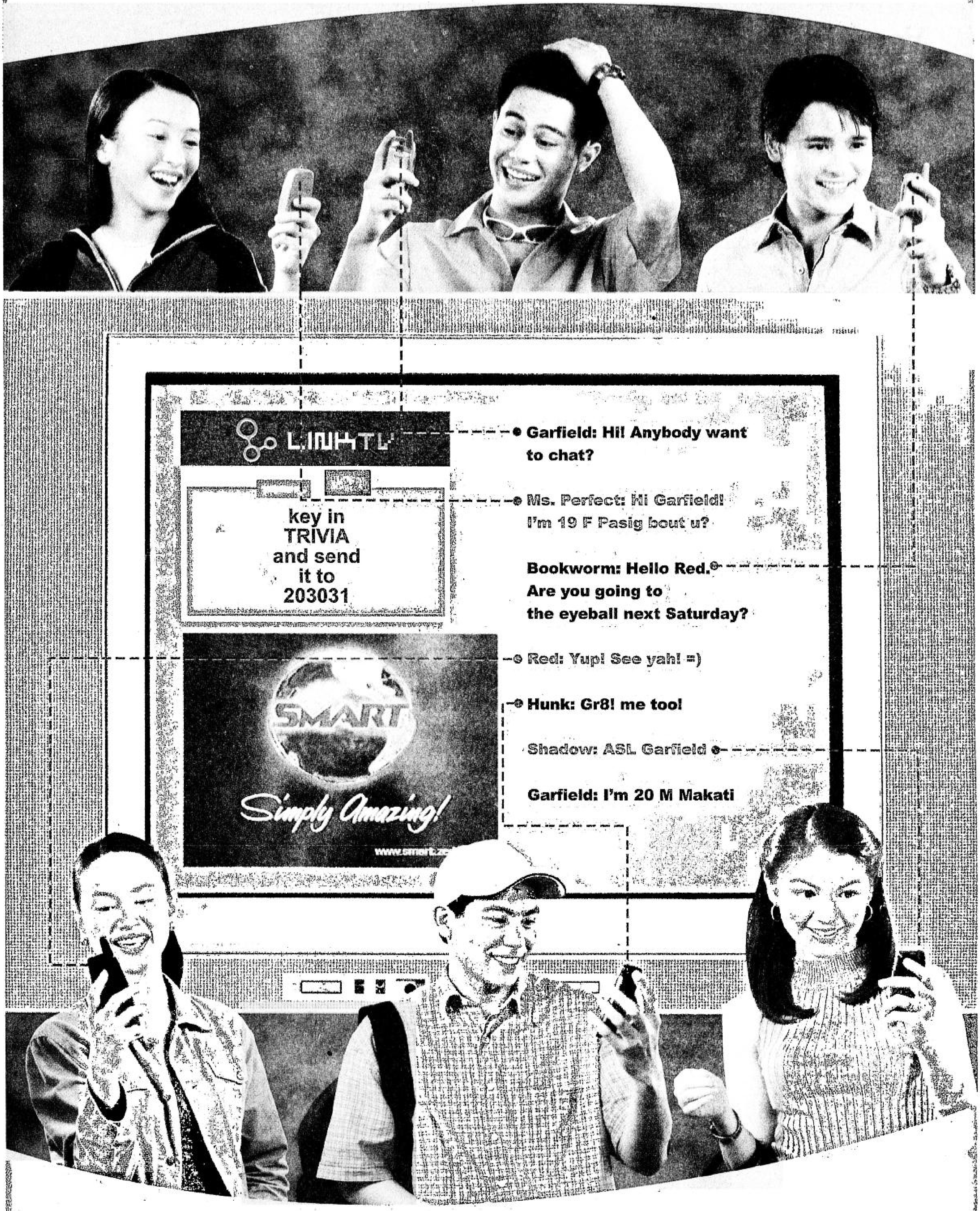

Garfield: Hi! Anybody want to chat?

Ms. Perfect: Hi Garfield! I'm 19 F Pasig bout u?

Bookworm: Hello Red. Are you going to the eyeball next Saturday?

Red: Yup! See yah! =)

Hunk: Gr8! me too!

Shadow: ASL Garfield

Garfield: I'm 20 M Makati

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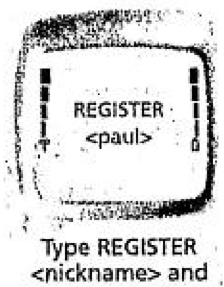

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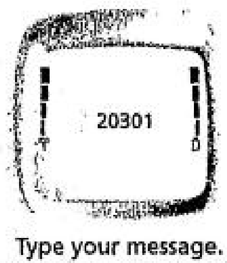

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Eizmendi: From lab hand to top man

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WITH his mestizo features and family name that can trace its way back to the Basque region of Spain, a casual observer will be led to conclude that Francisco Eizmendi became president of the venerable food and beverage giant, San Miguel Corp., because of proper connections.

He could not be more wrong for Eizmendi actually became president the hard way: By rising from the ranks, starting as a laboratory technician at the Farola glass plant in 1956, then working his way up to become president and chief operating officer of the conglomerate in 1987.

It was not an easy climb, Eizmendi tells the INQUIRER in an interview. But then again, he is no stranger to difficulty.

When his father passed away when he was 10, he had to assume the role of *"padre de familia"* and take care of his mother, who was a housewife, and two younger sisters—Ma. Lourdes and Ma. del Carmen.

"We grew up in Intramuros, but when war broke out, we had to live at the Hospicio de San Jose. We were with refugees, and my mother had to leave us at the orphanage while she looked for work as a *modista*," Eizmendi says.

Eizmendi paid for his board and lodging at the Hospicio by teaching catechism to smaller children at the orphanage and by watching over them. He was called "maestro" during those days.

"I learned early on what it was to really work for our three meals, and I never forgot it," Eizmendi says.

Destined for better things

Eizmendi, however, was destined for better things, and education was his key.

Blessed with a keen intellect, he got a partial scholarship from Letran in high school and from the University of Santo Tomas. Between his scholarships and his mother's earnings as a seamstress, he was able to graduate with a chemical engineering degree.

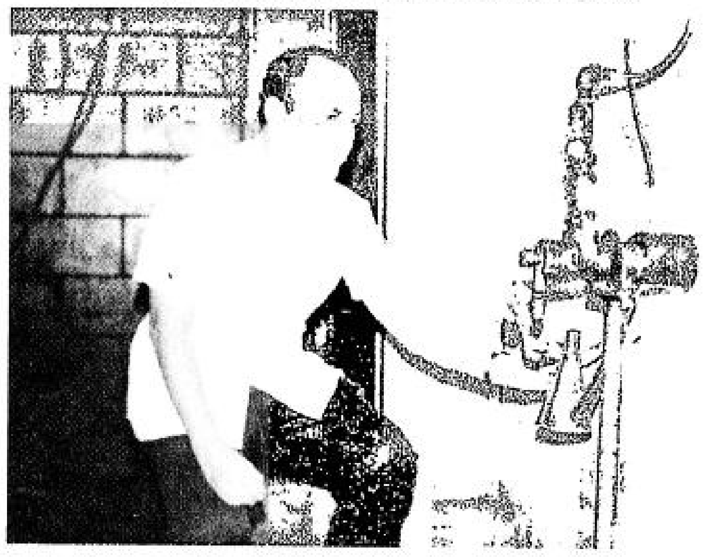
He made up for the difference by working at the UST hospital during the last three years of his college life as a store clerk.

"I worked at the UST hospital where they dispensed hospital supplies from morning until three in the afternoon, and then I would go to class in the evening from 4 to 8 in the evening," Eizmendi says.

The future San Miguel president was paid P120 a month, the minimum wage at that time. The money was enough to pay for his books and his *"baon."*

"I did not follow the fashion at that time because I could not afford it. Most of the time, I just wore khaki pants," Eizmendi says.

AS a laboratory technician in San Miguel's Farola glass plant.


ON his way up. Eizmendi lighting a glass furnace.

FIRST JOB

His sacrifices paid off as he, along with the other top graduates of the chemical engineering department, was invited to apply for a position with San Miguel.

"You can imagine that I was very eager to get to work with San Miguel. This was why I immediately went to work as soon as I passed all the exams, even if they gave me the option to start work a little later so that I could take the board exams," Eizmendi says.

Golden opportunity

Afraid to pass up the golden opportunity, he started working for San Miguel on July 1, 1956 and just took a short leave to take his exams, which he passed.

He was put to work at the glass plant as a laboratory technician and was paid P180 a month with no overtime. It was a difficult job, he says, working at the factory floor at odd times of the day, but he was glad he was put through it as it defined his character.

San Miguel, at that time, only had P100 million in sales and a few plants in Metro Manila.

"The Farola factory was hot, dirty and oily, but I enjoyed every bit of it. Looking back, I would opt to go through the same process because the experience molded me to become self-sufficient, and it fostered in me the proper work ethics," Eizmendi says.

Eizmendi, however, was not content to just work at the glass plant.

His break came in 1964 when he was made part of a select group that was handpicked by Australian consultant WD Scott to chart the new organizational setup of San Miguel and devise the new systems and processes that would bring the company to the next level.

"San Miguel hired a consultant because it was growing and it felt that it needed to professionalize the management. It was the natural, classical evolution for companies like San Miguel that started out as very entrepreneurial," he explains.

> 'I learned early on what it was to really work for our three meals—and I never forgot it'

On pulling rank

His stay with the core group as methods analyst exposed Eizmendi to the different operations of the conglomerate and to the different processes involved in achieving the company's goal to become the preeminent food and beverage conglomerate.

"It trained me in leadership qualities, and I tried to absorb as much as I can whenever I was exposed to the other sides of the business," he says.

His work earned for Eizmendi his first supervisory position in 1999 as manager of the corporate systems and methods analysis and control at 33 years old.

"I remember being very happy at that time, and I told my wife, Rory, that finally I have 'manager' in front of my name. At that time, it was my only ambition to have 'manager' in front of my name," he says.

Fate, however, had a different idea as Eizmendi's proficiency, integrity and hard work did not go unnoticed by his superiors, catapulting him to higher positions and, along with it, bigger responsibilities.

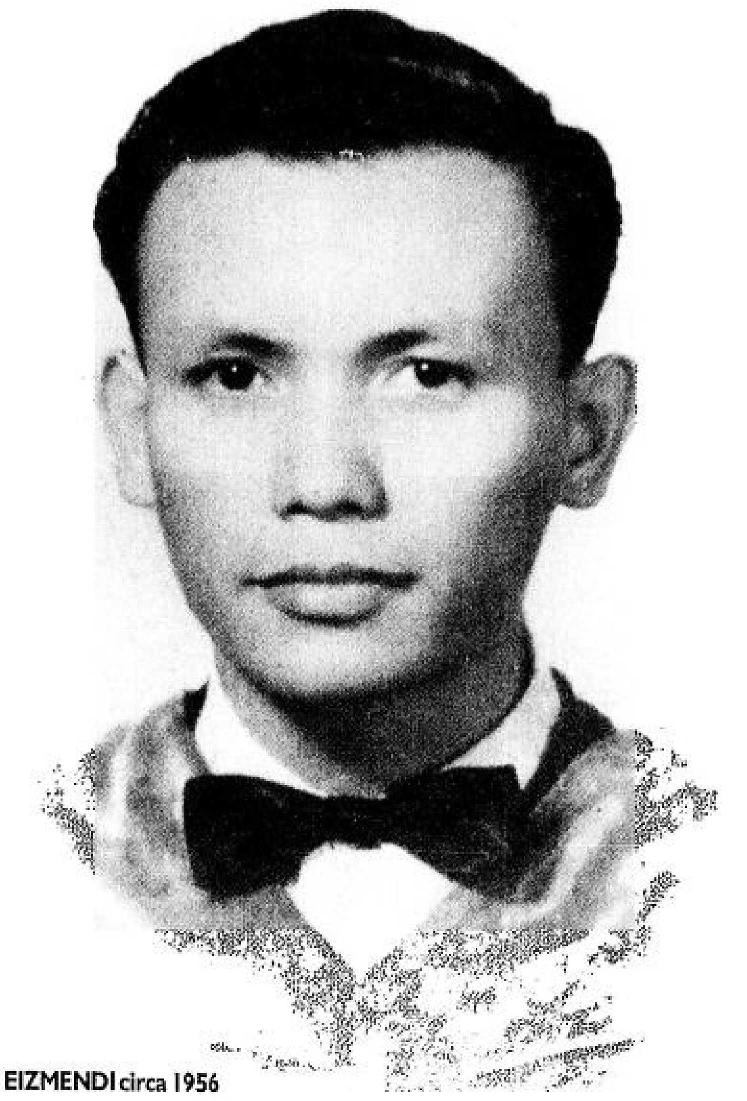
Many welcomed Eizmendi's rise, but others did not, especially when Eizmendi was promoted executive vice president when there were other more senior vice presidents who eyed the same position.

"That was a difficult transition, so the first thing I did was to make sure that the relations were not strained. I did this by being the same person. I never pulled rank. To me, it was more important that they respected the position and I related to them the same that I did. I never changed," Eizmendi says.

President and COO

From EVP it was a more smooth transition to finally becoming president and COO of San Miguel in May 1987, a position that he has held since then, despite changes in administrations and radical shifts in power within the conglomerate.

"I never dreamt of becoming president because I knew that it was a position reserved to major stockholders or those related to the stockholders. I was the first professional from the ranks to be appointed president, and it is very humbling. I do not pretend that I deserve it," Eizmendi says.


EIZMENDI circa 1956

Ask any San Miguel employee, however, and they will say that Eizmendi deserves his place as one of the longest-serving employees of San Miguel and a president at that.

He inspired the loyalty of his people because he retained the qualities that he possessed even as a laboratory technician in a glass plant.

"I think my difficult beginnings helped because it impressed on me very early to be serious, dedicated and to work hard. I never thought of taking it easy even in the first year of my career at the glass plant," he says.

"Even now, I always tell people that I am not overwhelmed by position or power. I like to believe that I have not changed in the way that I deal with people. I do not discriminate, and I am fortunate that even as I do that, they never took advantage of me, so I guess that type of relationship builds trust and comfort especially in difficult times," Eizmendi adds.

He says he takes the time and effort to go around the different San Miguel offices across the Philippines just to put the message across that everybody is part of the team, and that their contributions are important to San Miguel's growth.

"They can see that here is someone they know and what they see is what they get from me. I do not play games," Eizmendi says.

On retirement

He has just celebrated his 66th birthday last Jan. 15 and speculations are rife over whether Eizmendi would step down as president since he has passed the mandatory retirement age and poised to spend more time with his wife and four children.

Eizmendi says the announcement, if any, will be made in the appropriate time. In the meantime, he will continue to be the president that he is, rallying people to be the best that they can be in whatever position they are in.

"Everybody in San Miguel should live by the values of the company, which are hard work, honesty and respect for people. They should care for the company because it is the honorable thing to do. It is edifying to do so and they should know that no matter how lowly the job, it is a dignified one," he says.

"You can be yourself and you can still be great," he says.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0169 Series of 2002

From handling motorbikes to tending drinks

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The sudden shift from the track to a restaurant business is not so easy for five-time motocross champion Butch Chase.

To motorcycle aficionados, Chase is a legend. Until now, his records at the racing track are unbeaten.

Running a business is far from handling a dirt bike and competing to win. In business, it's not all winning but giving the best service to customers.

After getting tired of the sport, Chase needed a place to settle in. A businessman friend, Archie Po, encouraged him to go to Palawan instead of putting up a motorcycle shop in Cotabato.

Chase, an American-Russian, spent most of his life in Parañaque in Metro Manila and traveled extensively in the Philippines and Asia, doing motocross racing.

With only one bag, a motorcycle, helmet and a pair of boots in tow, he went to Palawan to oversee the construction of his friend's Hotel Fleuris in January 1998.

He continued his passion for motorcycles, exploring the mountains on weekends with local riders. But then, his funds were running out.

BUTCH Chase (right) and business partner Caesar Yuipco believe that word of mouth is the best form of advertising. JOFELLE TESORIO

The restaurant business was already thriving in Puerto Princesa. However, Chase resented the idea of competing directly. What he envisioned was a small, cozy place that was accessible to customers and whose earnings can sustain his daily expenses, including buying medicines for his ailing mother.

Besides, a small place is easier to manage with less capital and overhead expenses.

Luck was on his side when his friend got a good bargain for a 1,700-square-meter lot on Rizal Avenue.

They bought the property and put up a bar and grill with a spacious parking area. The bar can accommodate more than 250 people.

Kinabuchs Grill and Bar has become a household name since it opened in October 2000.

Who would forget Kinabuchs? The name, if translated in English, means Butch's place, our place, your place or anybody's place.

Those who are not familiar with the bar will think of it as a friend's house or hangout.

The name helped Chase a lot. People remembered the restaurant although it was not advertised. Chase never believed much in advertising anyway. He prefers that the good news about Kinabuchs be spread by word of mouth.

The familiar name creates an impression that everybody can go there without worrying about dress code or budget.

Indeed, Kinabuchs caters to all. Chase's customers vary from politicians to students, from young professionals to homemakers, from market vendors to lawyers.

His personnel, wearing khaki shorts, rubber shoes and black T-shirts with the slogan "Galing Kinabuchs," also conveys a friendly image of the place.

FAÇADE of Kinabuchs Bar and Grill, a restaurant that has become a household name in Puerto Princesa City.

"There are only a few restaurants that can get different kinds of people, with different status and interests in life together. The only place in Puerto Princesa is Kinabuchs," Chase says with pride.

Butch's 'chicks'

Since it opened, Kinabuchs has maintained its prices. The "Chicks ni Butch," which consists of grilled chicken, rice and pickled papaya or *atchara*, only costs P45. For P25, one can get a good pork barbecue.

Another favorite is sizzling *sisig* for only P85, while the mouth-watering crispy *pata* is only P185. Tuna steak is a treat for only P85.

Another hit, even among tourists, is the *tamilok*, a worm-like mucus from the mangrove tree, which is sold at P80 per serving. Kinabuchs is the only restaurant in the city that serves *tamilok*, a favorite beer match among locals.

Drinks are also affordable. A glass of iced tea costs P22, while a bottle of beer is P28. Prices of mixed drinks and cocktails vary from P45 to P100.

Asked why Kinabuchs still maintains the lowest price in the city, Chase reasons out that business is not all profit.

"When you put up a business, don't think that you'll get rich overnight. It's always for the long term. You have to satisfy the customer first," he says in fluent Filipino.

He always reminds his staff, mostly working students, to take care of the customers because if they don't, somebody else will.

People come back not only because of the fair prices but also because of the tasty cuisine, courtesy of chef Lino, an experienced cook known for his fresh, grilled seafood and other local delicacies. Lino catches the perfect Palaweño taste.

Personal touch

Chase prefers a personal touch in doing business. He enjoys interaction with the customers and calls himself a GRA or "go round and around."

"I'm used to a lot of people because my previous job in organizing motocross events entailed a lot of interactions with people from all walks of life," he said.

His civic-mindedness also creates a wholesome image for Kinabuchs. Last year, the restaurant hosted a dinner for the Ms Earth candidates, a Christmas party for street children, and a dinner for the benefit of a parish church project.

Although Kinabuchs enjoys a big chunk of the market, it was also affected by the Dos Palmas kidnapping and the World Trade Center attacks last year.

"People no longer went out that time because the economy got worse. We also suffered so much but that never made us lose hope. We even improved our service," he says.

Kinabuchs, adorned with nine coconut trees illuminated by spotlights, nine cogon huts, one private hut and one big main hut, opens at 4 p.m. and closes at 2 a.m. Sometimes, service hours were extended if customers requested to stay longer.

The bar speaks of the character of the owner. A 1965 Czech-manufactured C.Z. motorcycle is displayed.

A miniature Harley-Davidson joins wine bottles in the bar with some of Chase's citations from the Philippine Sports Association and Sportswriters and Columnists Organization of the Philippines.

His original Harley was once displayed at the entrance of the main hut. The place now has two TV sets hung on the corners, two billiard tables and a nook for darts.

Chase also put up a pool table to cater to those who cannot afford the billiard shop's rate. On the parking lot, he will put up a large TV screen similar to the popular drive-in movie theaters in the United States.

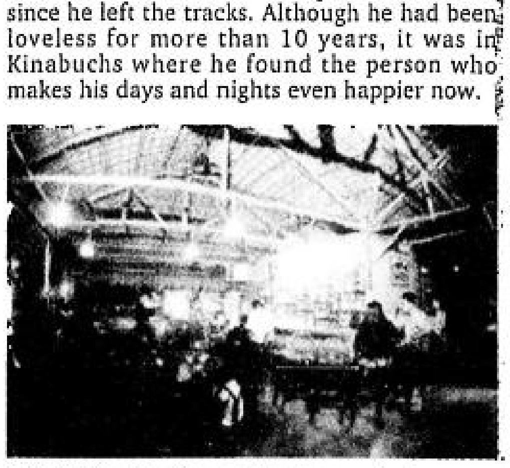
"My feminine side came out during the construction of Kinabuchs because I had to decide which plant to put where or which color matches the tables and the bar. I didn't do it when I was riding," he said.

Chase said there was not much difference between running a restaurant and riding on a motorcycle. Both entail patience, perseverance and concentration.

But a restaurant, he claims, needs not just full concentration but personal attention. He supervises Kinabuchs every night, 362 days a year. The place is closed on Good Friday, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Chase is operating Kinabuchs with a partner former city tourism consultant Caesar Yuipco. Chase's 19-year-old son Christopher also helps run some errands for the restaurant.

Palawan has been Butch's permanent home since he left the tracks. Although he had been loveless for more than 10 years, it was in Kinabuchs where he found the person who makes his days and nights even happier now.



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Manor salvages John Hay developers' fortunes

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—It takes at lenst seven hours these days to drive to this mountain resort city, whether you travel by bus through Marcos Highway or Naguilian Road, or take the scenic tour up winding Kennon Road.

Once here, only the relatively chilly air reminds you of Baguio's once pristine attraction. Traffic jams, unregulated bargain houses and sidewalk vendors greet visitors.

But the city's perilous turn towards urban decay has not discouraged domestic tourism. The Department of Tourism was surprised by the brisk rate of hotel bookings here between January 2001 and the first week of January this year.

Baguio's high visitor arrival has even guaranteed developers of Camp John Hay its first profitable investment project in over five years of scandals.

These are full bookings at the maiden run of the 189-room Camp John Hay Manor in December and a 90-percent stock commitment to a unique investment formula packaged exclusively for the developer's only hotel venture here.

Noli Reyes, Manor resident manager, said the tourism industry's good fortune can be traced to the one unalterable character of Baguio—the city's self-contained environment makes it one of the country's safest havens.

He said Baguio's "rarely articulated security" complements the nature of the city's usual visitors.

In the last 50 years, the city had been the venue for corporate meetings or the weekly haunt of vacationing corporate executives, Reyes explained.

This is based on his experience with the former Hyatt Terraces Baguio, the five-star hotel that had been a by-word for local tourism, alongside the former Pines Hotel.

The Hyatt was destroyed during the 1990 Luzon earthquake while the Pines Hotel was gutted by fire in 1985.

The city now has over 30 hotels, inns and lodging houses scattered throughout downtown Baguio.

But alongside the government-owned Teachers' Camp, these have not been able to accommodate all of still-growing number of vacationing businessmen and families who travel to Baguio on weekend outings, Reyes said.

"If we talk about foreign clientele, we have a big drawback there. If we talk about domestic tourism, (bad roads) are not the drawbacks. Everybody wants to go to Baguio," he pointed out.

Scaling down

These factors have become good enough reasons for Camp John Hay developer, Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), to temporarily scale down its projections, and rethink its concept of the old American rest and recreation center.

John Hay's lease contract was won in 1997 by a consortium led by the Fil-Estate Group of companies. Its subsidiary development firm, CJHDevco, had been drawing together facilities earmarked for a top-class international tourism complex.

But controversy had hounded the CJHDevco projects. Moderate and militant groups critical of John Hay's "privatization" have sustained lobby efforts to block the project.

Last year, CJHDevco's multi-billion peso log homes project was implicated in reports that identified deposed President Joseph Estrada and his cronies as the project's direct beneficiaries.

Fil-Estate president Robert John Sobrepeña acknowledged in an earlier interview that bad press had not helped market many of their John Hay projects.

But since the Manor's extraordinary reception in December last year, CJHDevco had gone into the thick of negotiations seeking to capitalize a built-in conference hall for the property that would accommodate 2,000 people.

There are plans to re-introduce pollution-free shuttle services, which Sobrepeña proposed to power up via liquefied petroleum gas or by electricity, to make John Hay accessible again to the "car-less" tourists.

Reyes said these internal changes have been encouraged by Baguio's recent tourism boom.

"We really don't have the facilities... There are factors about John Hay's Manor project, which we have to evaluate. The original concept was to run (the Manor) as a condominium. There were no provisions for seminar rooms or conference rooms. I have a small boardroom good for about 12 people... The (DOT) is coming over to inspect the Manor for accreditation. I don't have a swimming pool (to show them), I don't have a gym, I don't have a spa. They might characterize (the Manor) as a negative-two star hotel," Reyes said.

Despite these liabilities, the Manor had opened to good business last year.

It noted a 58-percent reservation rate on its available 68 units on Dec. 1, and saw it fluctuate up by 20 to 30 percent during the Fil-Am golf tournament in December.

Under construction

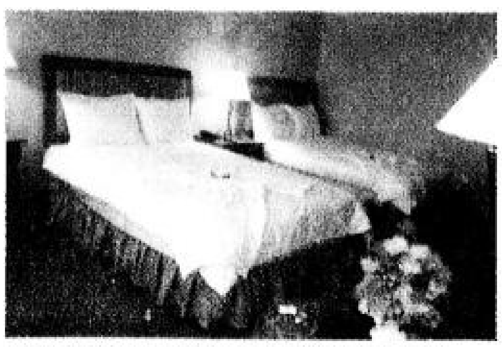
More than half of the Manor is still under construction, and will take until the end of the year to complete.

But the completed rooms are cream-brown units that suggest a country flavor compatible with Baguio's historic links to the American colonial government.

Reyes said the room rates match the going rates in Baguio, making the Manor accessible to domestic and even city-based visitors.

Sobrepeña told the INQUIRER that

MANOR/B7


LUXURY in one of the Manor's 189 rooms.

THE MANOR: Country flavor.

A PLACE to enjoy the sun and a great view.

DINING area

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ASIA BREWERY
20
YEARS
THE POWER OF CHOICE

Asia Bre
More choices
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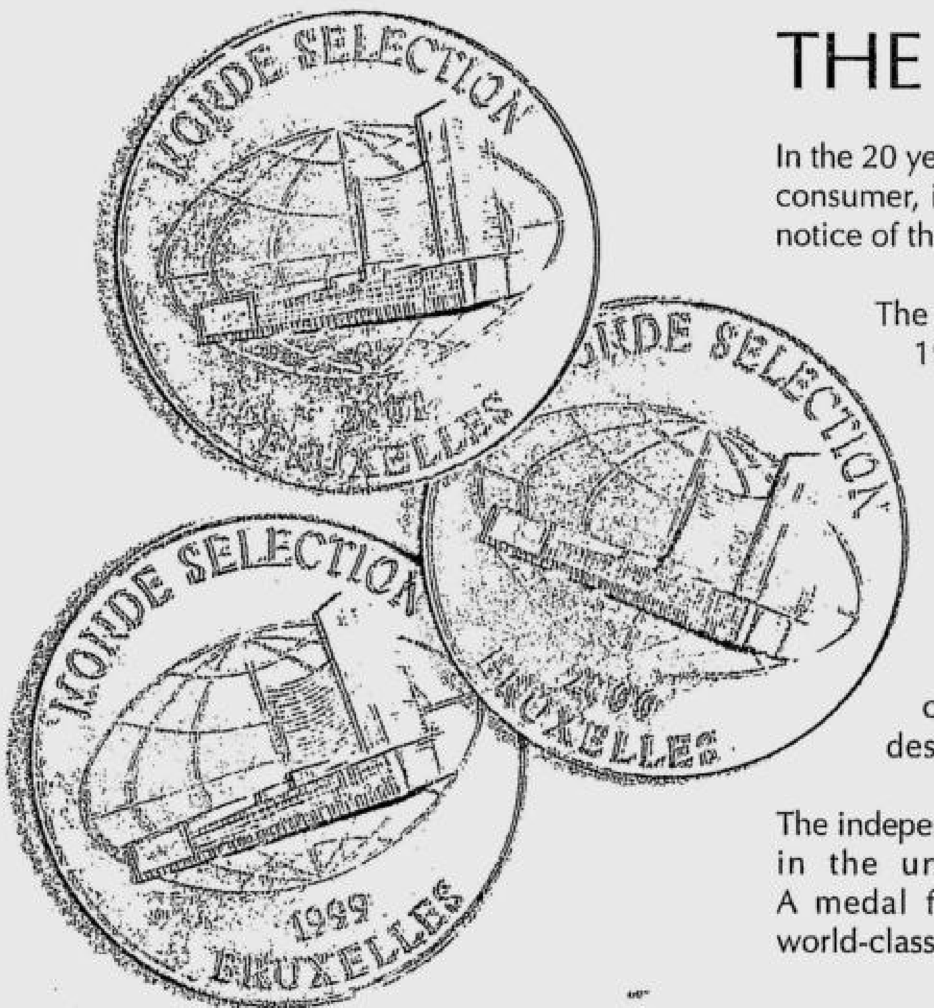
for 20 years

On January 27, 1982, Asia Brewery, Inc. was born out of the vision of one man, Mr. Lucio Tan. His vision was to uplift the standards of the Filipino consumers by providing them with high quality products at prices they can afford. And with that, the very first bottle of beer was created.

Twenty years and billions of bottles later, Asia Brewery, Inc. has come to symbolize innovation, determination, excellence, and most important of all, the **Power of Choice.**

For it is in choosing to take on the challenge of creating the only other brewery in the country that Asia Brewery, Inc. now offers each and every Filipino consumer the power to choose better alternatives and leave their old drinking habits behind.

With a total of 12 alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages being produced today, Asia Brewery, Inc. continues to emphasize its commitment to create world-class products and give the Filipino consumer more and more choices for years to come.



THE GOLDEN AGE OF ABI

In the 20 years that Asia Brewery has been creating world-class beverages for the Filipino consumer, it is not surprising that an international award-giving body would soon take notice of the company's efforts.

The World Monde Selection, the international institute for quality founded in 1961 and based in Brussels, Belgium, conferred the gold medal to Beer na Beer in the 38th World Selection for Beer – 1999. In the year 2000, ABI received three gold medals for Beer na Beer, Colt 45 Malt Liquor and Lone Star Beer. And Beer na Beer scored a grand slam when it struck gold once again in 2001.

Winning the medals was not easy. To earn this award, the products underwent extensive analytical and microbiological testing as well as organoleptic (aroma and taste) analyses. Some of the world's best tasters comprised the panel which assessed the quality of the products. Only those deserving recognition were given medals ranging from bronze to gold.

The independent nature of the decisions made by Monde Selection is absolute, resulting in the unprejudiced quality assessments made on the products tested. A medal from the World Monde Selection is a guarantee of unquestionable world-class quality.

Asia Brewery, Inc. is formally inaugurated on January 27, 1982. ABI rolls out its pioneering brands **Beer Hausen, Max Premium Beer and Manila Beer.**

1982-83

ABI enters its first international tie-up and introduces **Carlsberg** to the Philippine market.

1987

ABI introduces its most successful and most controversial brand, **Beer Pale Pilsen.** Change is brewing in the air.

1988

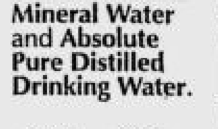
Stag Pale Pilsen is developed by ABI together with Carlsberg International A/S with the younger beer-drinking set in mind.

PALE
STAG
PILSEN

1991

ABI inaugurates its second brewery in El Salvador, a few kilometers west of Cagayan de Oro City to meet the demands of the Mindanao market.

ABI diversifies from beer to non-alcoholic beverages with **Summit Natural Mineral Water** and **Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking Water.**



1992

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for the
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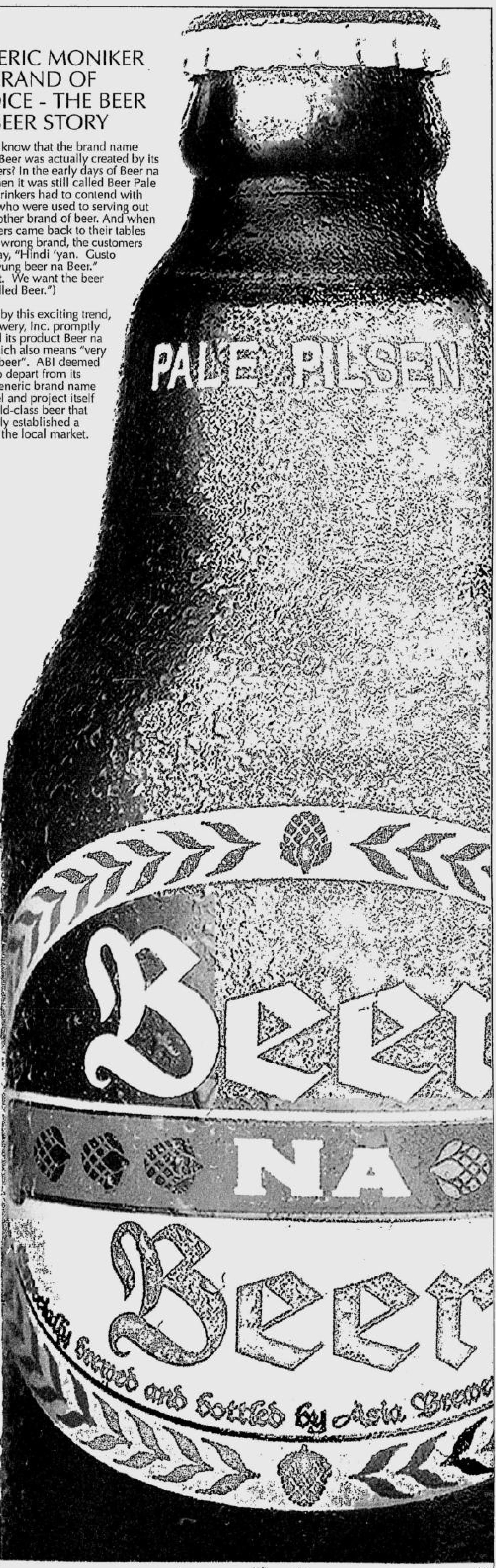
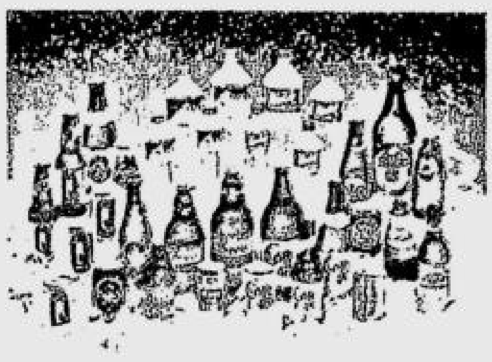


GENERIC MONIKER TO BRAND OF CHOICE - THE BEER NA BEER STORY

Did you know that the brand name Beer na Beer was actually created by its consumers? In the early days of Beer na Beer, when it was still called Beer Pale Pilsen, drinkers had to contend with waiters who were used to serving out just the other brand of beer. And when the waiters came back to their tables with the wrong brand, the customers would say, "Hindi 'yan. Gusto namin 'yung beer na Beer." (Not that. We want the beer that's called Beer.")

Sparked by this exciting trend, Asia Brewery, Inc. promptly renamed its product Beer na Beer, which also means "very much a beer". ABI deemed it time to depart from its earlier generic brand name and label and project itself as a world-class beer that has finally established a name in the local market.



TWO DECADES OF DIVERSIFICATION

When people think of Asia Brewery, they think of beer, beer, and more beer. But after 20 years, ABI has grown from a mere beer maker to a full-fledged beverage and packaging company.

The company was inspired by the growth potential of the bottled water business and the fact that its Cabuyao, Laguna facility is blessed with an abundant supply of excellent natural water. That's why in 1992, ABI ventured forth into the bottled water category by setting up its own bottled water plant complete with PET bottle blowing capabilities and created Summit Natural Spring Water and Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking Water. Soon after, other non-alcoholic beverages were produced, including Q Shandy and Pacific Sun Iced Tea, establishing ABI as a major player in the total beverage market.

In terms of packaging, Asia Brewery boasts of a fully automated glass plant capable of turning out 10 different bottle types at any given time. To date, the huge ABI complex is considered as one of the biggest and most modern fully integrated breweries in Southeast Asia. So extensive is the diversification that ABI's bottling and packaging plants even service some of the country's largest food and beverage companies.

GIVING US A TASTE OF THE WORLD

One of the most significant moves of Asia Brewery is its tie-ups with revered international brewing companies to expose Filipino drinkers to the different flavors of beer from around the world.

ABI entered an agreement with Carlsberg International A/S of Copenhagen to bring **Carlsberg Beer** to the Philippines. **Colt 45 Malt Liquor** and **Lone Star Beer** are products of the company's alliance with Colt Breweries of America. Anheuser Busch of St. Louis, Missouri, USA, together with ABI brought to our shores **Budweiser**.

These partnerships with the world's top brewers simply reiterate Asia Brewery's position as a world-class company whose products and services rival the best in the world.

Budweiser
KING OF BEERS
ASIA BREWERY INCORPORATED
Colt 45
MANILA, PHILS
Carlsberg Beer

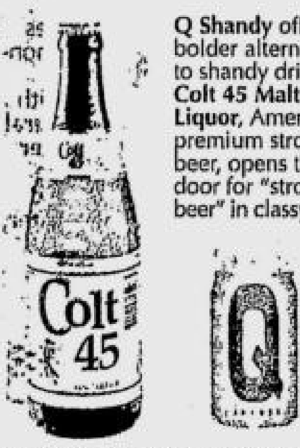
ABI CHARITIES: THE HEART OF THE BUSINESS

Behind the big business that is Asia Brewery, Inc. is a company that devotes an equally significant amount of effort to helping the Filipino people in whatever way it can, no matter how big or small the need is.

The biggest and most notable of these efforts are channeled through the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that has been involved in various charity drives for the past 15 years. Donations to schools and hospitals, medical missions in depressed areas and book donation projects all reinforce the Foundation's commitment to the education, health, and moral welfare of underprivileged Filipinos nationwide.

Another social effort is the Asia Brewery Medical Specialty Scholarship Program. Founded in 1984, this program grants financial assistance to deserving doctors who desire to pursue further studies in their respective specialties. In return, the scholars are asked to practice their specialties here and share the advanced knowledge they have gained abroad with our fellow countrymen.

From disaster relief efforts to blood donations and community service, the men and women of Asia Brewery are always ready to give a helping hand.

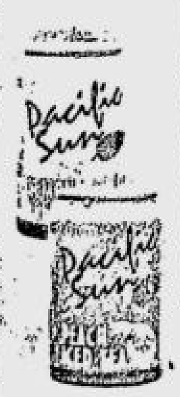


Q Shandy offers a bolder alternative to shandy drinkers. **Colt 45 Malt Liquor,** America's premium strong beer, opens the door for "strong beer" in classy bars.

1995

Budweiser, the undisputed "King of Beers" makes its royal debut in the country. Filipino drinkers finally get to taste the world's no. 1 selling beer.

1996



Pacific Sun Iced Tea is introduced and strengthens ABI's foothold in the total beverage market. **Beer na Beer** gets a new look and wins gold in the Monde Selection.

1999

Lone Star Beer hits it big with Filipino consumers. The Monde Selection awards gold medals to **Beer na Beer, Lone Star Beer and Colt 45 Malt Liquor.**

2000

AGUA VIDA®

ABI acquires **Agua Vida Purified Water** and reformulates **Beer na Beer,** which wins a third straight Monde Selection gold medal.

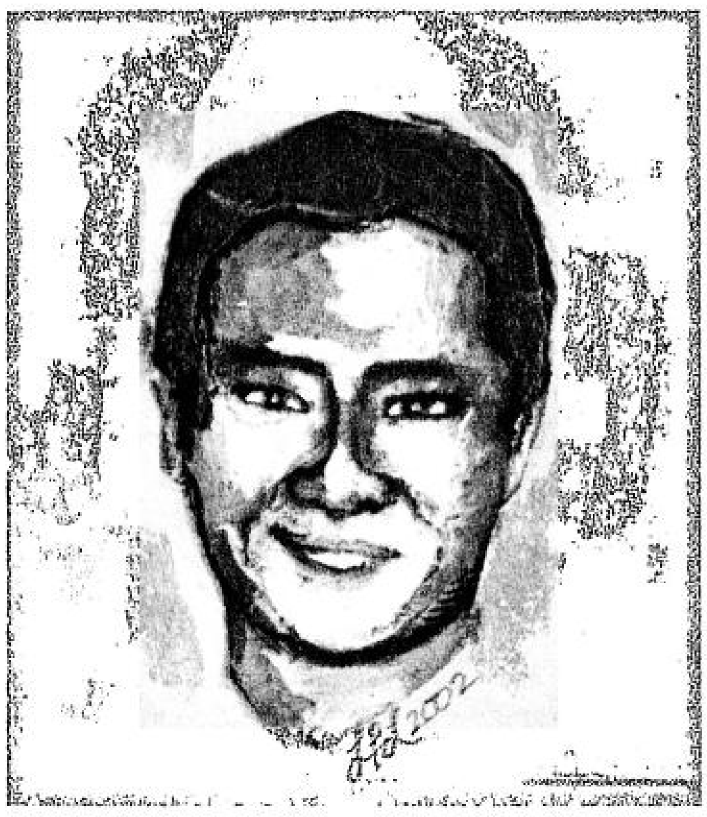
2001

Asia Brewery, Inc. celebrates 20 years of giving Filipino consumers the **Power of Choice.**

ASIA BREWERY
20
YEARS

2002

IN YOUR FACE BY L.P. LEVISTE



SELF-STYLED cult leader Genta Ogami needs more than just charisma and promises to get himself out of his troubles both here and in Japan. Aside from getting the ire of the depositors of the shuttered Unitrust Development Bank, he is now wanted by his former associates at G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. and over 10,000 Japanese investors who want to recover some P7 billion worth of investments sunk with Ogami.

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METLIFE Insurance Co. of the Philippines, a wholly owned subsidiary of US insurance giant Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., has entered into an alliance with Citicorp Financial Services Inc. to offer special insurance products to Citicorp's selected credit cardholders. From left are: Joseph Dion, vice president, MetLife Philippines; Leo Gavelas, president CSFI; and, Steven Meyers, president and chief executive, MetLife Philippines.

(From left) RETIRED Supreme Court Justices Emilio Gancayco and Abraham Sarmiento, Chief Justice Hilario Davide and former Justice Enrique Fernando.

(From left) SAN Miguel VP Francis Jardeleza, Pelagio Ricalde, alumni donor and Class of 1977 representative Ferdie Domingo and George Briones.

Justices return to 90-year-old alma mater to mark milestone

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr., together with retired Supreme Court Justices Jose Campos, Enrique Fernando, Emilio Gancayco, Carolina Griño-Aquino and Abraham Sarmiento were among the distinguished guests at the recent 90th anniversary of the UP College of Law.

With the theme, "Law in the Grand Manner," a poetic phrase from former Dean Jorge Bocobo's message to the graduating class of 1934, the college has continued to pursue excellence in legal education.

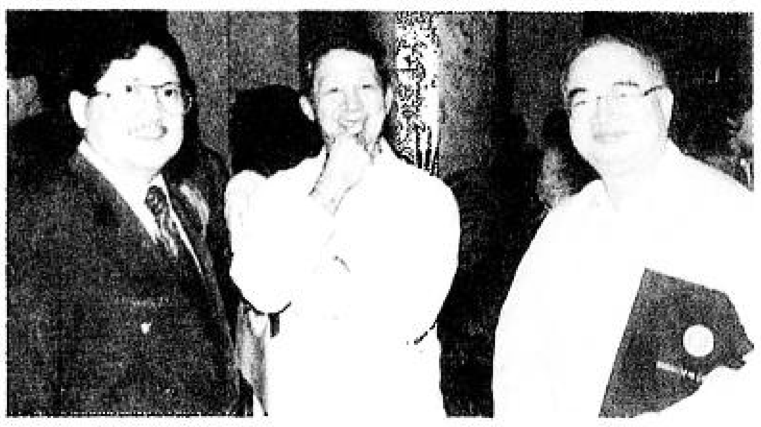
Dean Raul C. Pangalangan recalled some of the college's numerous activities this year. The college has been busy preparing students for the times, establishing an Internet and Society Program to address emerging legal issues brought by this technology.

UP president Francisco Nemenzo also commended the college for being the first and perhaps the only law faculty that took a "unanimous and principled stand early in the impeachment process."

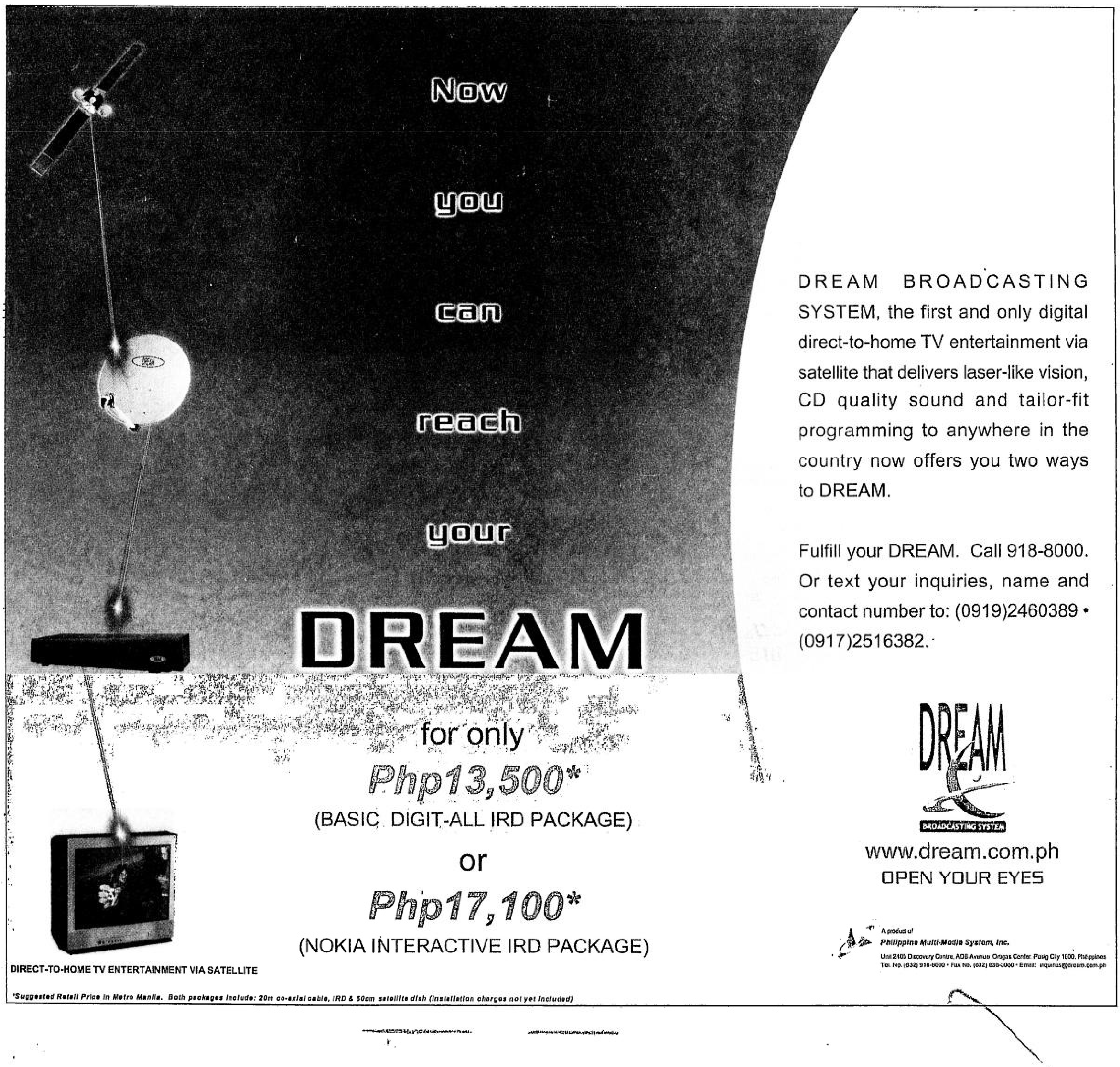
The UP College of Law quickly compiled and published a primer and even a Tagalog translation of the rules of evidence while the trial was ongoing to help the Filipino public judge for themselves.

The UP College of Law has topped bar exams from 1913 to 1918. Until 1932, 14 graduates were also bar topnotchers. UP has also topped the bar from 1988 to 1990, 1994 to 1997, 1999 and 2000.

(From left) UP president Francisco Nemenzo, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., UP Law Dean Raul C. Pangalangan, Prof. Elizabeth A. Pangalangan and Associate Dean Myrna S. Feliciano.



(From left) **VILLARAZA** and Angangco law office partner Raoul Angangco, Accra Law partner Prof. Rogelio Vinluan with alumni donor and Sycip Law managing partner Andy Gatmaitan.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Strictly for the poor: Collateral-free loans

By Amelita R. Remo

IT is ironic that the poor who need the money most have the least access to loans they need to start a business.

Requirements such as collateral hinder them from securing a loan, but one bank is offering an alternative.

Sama-samang Itaguyod ang Kaunlarang Pangkabuhayan, or "Sikap," a project pioneered by the First Macro Bank, a rural bank, and its executive vice president, Ricky Ocampo, has been designed to meet the credit needs of the enterprising poor, who do not have collateral for their loans.

"Our main objective in this program is to help elevate the lives of the poor by giving them a chance to start their own livelihood through a collateral-free loan," says Ocampo.

The "Sikap Loan Program," established in May 2001, provides loans to groups of unemployed women, worth between P5,000 and P500,000.

The concept was based on the Grameen banking system of Bangladesh, which did away with collateral and rather based the business on mutual trust, accountability and participation.

It, thus, gives an opportunity for the poor, who are bent on putting up their own business, to obtain a loan to start a small livelihood.

The Sikap Loan Program, however, added a few modifications to the Grameen concept.

Sikap, for instance, made the program exclusive for unemployed women. It also set levels of eligibility from 1 to 10, with each level determining the amount of money that can be lent.

Level 1 is the lowest with a minimum loan of P5,000 and the highest is Level 10 with a maximum loan of P500,000.

Applicants should be between 18 and 60 years old, in good health, resident in the area for at least a year and must not have any regular source of income.

Before obtaining a loan, the applicant has to be oriented on how the Sikap Loan program works—the terms and conditions of being part of the program. She would also be required to participate in the weekly activities that the Sikap Loan Program called the Center Development Calendar.

The Center Development Calendar is a list of free activities provided for the members, including seminars on various livelihood projects, first aid training and seminars on how to wisely invest money.

OCAMPO with his clients, during one of his visits to the projects of SIKAP.

Ocampo explains that it is only through these means that the community can build trust and accountability among its members, which is very important in the Sikap Loan Program.

The community of women will be divided into groups of five members each with a technical officer to handle and facilitate their accounts. There are usually eight groups in each center and each municipality could have as much as 15 centers, depending on its size.

All members start at Level 1. They can borrow every 25 weeks, which is equivalent to one cycle. The amount that they can borrow would depend on how they have performed in the previous cycle, usually measured in terms of credit payment and attendance to the weekly activities.

The applicant can move up to another level if and when they have a clean payment record and have faithfully attended the Center Development Program. It can take as short as six months to move up to another level.

After Level 4, the members graduate from the Sikap Loan Program to the other Microfinance loan of the bank called Unlad, which stands for "Uunlad and Negosyo sa Lingap at Disiplina," which was also established on May 2001.

In Unlad, loans are bigger and are given to individuals rather than groups. This is to protect the group from paying a huge amount since the rule is that if a member of the group cannot pay, then the whole group has to pay for her loan.

However, once the loan reaches P100,000, a collateral becomes mandatory, but the collateral is "reasonable."

Ocampo assures that being part of the Sikap Loan program is worth the time and effort, since it offers a lot of benefits.

Aside from the continuous weekly training given to its members, and the collateral-free credit facility, the program also features a savings mobilization for the members, wherein they can open a savings account in First Macro Bank either as an individual or as a group, through the Sikap Loan program.

An added feature is the Sikap shuttle, which helps in the mobility of the members and the technical officers: Pick up and drop off points are already stationed in different parts of Rizal. Other areas will soon follow.

First Macro Bank will also soon incorporate its other services into the program such as international money remittance services through various money remittance companies such as Uniteller.

Additional benefits will soon follow. These include SSS and an ID system, which could also serve as a discount card to various establishments

To date, the Sikap Loan program has proven to be successful in most of the municipalities in Rizal, with only Montalban and San Mateo left to be covered. It has already entered Pateros, Pasig, Makati and Batangas, specifically, Rosario, Malvar, Sto. Tomas and Padre Garcia.

It has about 5,000 members and Ocampo's group plans to grow it to around 10,000 members by July this year.

UCPB employs ATMs as brand building tool

IT used to be that automated teller machines all looked alike—cold, metallic and totally devoid of character. Things, however, are starting to change, as banks begin to realize that ATMs have far more important corporate uses than just delivering convenient cash banking services to their customers.

Located in pedestrian traffic-heavy areas, ATMs are seen and used by millions of people everyday. Each encounter with an ATM, therefore, represents an opportunity for the institution to strengthen a customer's loyalty, gain market share or push other services.

United Coconut Planters Bank leads the industry in harnessing the ATM's potentials. Over the last three years, the bank has given its ATMs a friendlier mien and transformed them into effective channels both for projecting the UCPB brand and cross selling other bank products and services. It has also expanded its network to 201, opening 99 new ATM sites in areas where customers are likely to congregate such as shopping malls, gasoline stations and mass transport terminals.

In various surveys, one concern that customers always bring up is the quality of ATM service. Knowing that an unkempt, poorly lit and frequently off-line ATM would reflect badly on the institution's reputation, UCPB overhauled the appearance of its ATMs while improving its availability rate.

Today, UCPB's ATMs are probably the "best dressed" in the industry. Sporting the bank's bright blue and green corporate colors, UCPB's ATMs are distinct and stand above competition. Customers can easily spot them at night, even from afar, and they also feel safe transacting at these machines because these are clean and well lit.

UCPB ATMs have also gained a reputation for reliability. Based on the latest monitoring figures, network online availability rate has reached 98 percent, which is even higher than Megalink's standard of 97 percent.

A key element in this improvement is the creation of an ATM service delivery committee. This committee comprises representatives from all units involved in ATM operation and also includes representatives from ATM vendors and suppliers. It meets regularly to discuss and address issues that affect ATM operations.

Manor . . .

From page B3

government's new interest in tourism was "the right direction."

"The Filipino people by nature are probably the most adaptable to this (tourism) industry than any other people in Asia. We speak English, we invite strangers to our homes, that's the kind of culture I think that works in the area of tourism," he said.

Tourism has also inspired Fil-Estate to undertake the "concept of stock share proposals."

Sobrepeña had initialed a "time-sharing" version for a stock-sharing scheme that allows an investor to put in no less than P1 million to help capitalize the Manor and its still-to-be built twin, the 250-unit John Hay Suites.

The "time-sharing" scheme offers 189 Manor rooms to investors for a renewable 15-year proprietary lease, at condominium rates that vary between P1 million and P10 million, according to the room sizes and the unit's profitability.

But instead of a straightforward condominium transaction, the investors agree to a buy-back lease agreement that allows the Manor hotel administrator to rent out the leased rooms. The Manor investor is guaranteed 70 percent of the room's 15-year duration take.

It was tested initially by the Fontana Leisure properties in the Clark Special Economic Zone, said Reyes.

The proof of the Manor investment's success had been in the bookings. Reyes said the only bookings he had turned down since December had been conventions.

"But that won't be the case for long," he said.

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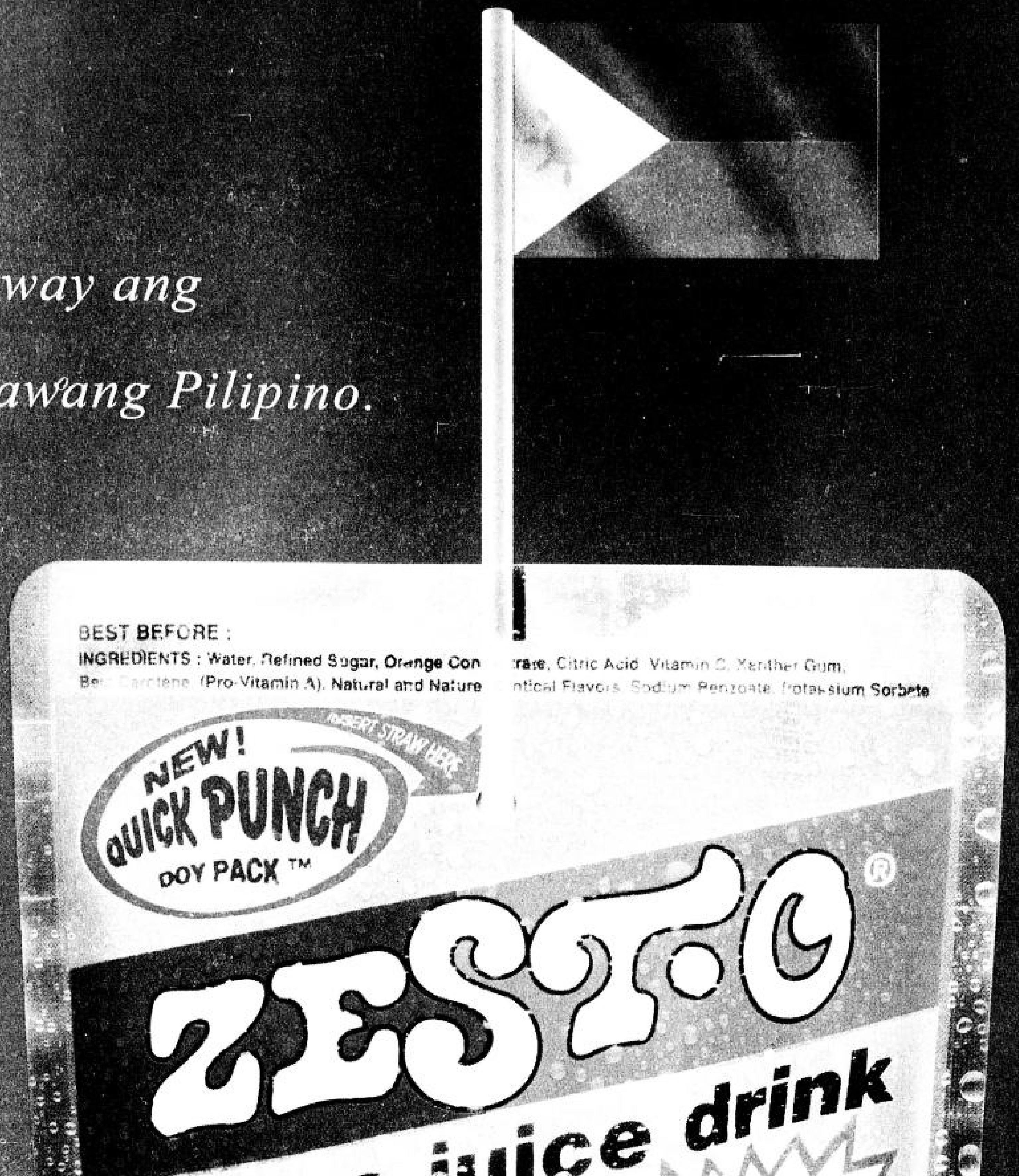
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Qualifications: At least three (3) years managerial experience in all facets of human resources management, graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, or any four-year Management course; excellent communication skills and able to relate with all levels in the organization; and not over 35 years old.

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Qualifications: A Certified Public Accountant; at least three (3) years managerial experience in all facets of accounting or treasury or finance and administration operations; excellent communication skills and able to relate with all levels in the organization; Proficient in computer software application; and not more than 35 years old.

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Qualifications: At least three years managerial experience in property development and building administration, or theater, or food court, or retail operations management, graduate of Business or Engineering; excellent communication skills and able to relate with all levels in the organization; computer literate; and not over 35 years old.

LEASING MANAGER

Qualifications: At least one (1) year managerial experience in the area of property management; graduate of any four-year business course, preferably Accounting or CPA, analytical, with excellent communication skills and able to relate with all levels in the organization; and not over 35 years old.

MARKETING MANAGER

Qualifications: At least three (3) years managerial experience in the field of advertising and promotions management, graduate of any four-year course, preferably BS Fine Arts (Advertising) or Mass Communication; excellent communication skills and able to relate with all levels in the organization; and not over 35 years old.

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Qualifications: At least two (2) years managerial experience in security and safety operations, preferably with a property development/management or retail business; graduate of Criminology or any related couse; with excellent communication skills, pleasant disposition, and able to relate with all levels in the organization; flexible to different work assignments; not more than 32 years old; and at least 5'2" height for females, or 5'6" height for males.

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Qualifications: At least three (3) years management experience in the field of computer programming; graduate of Computer Science/Engineering, excellent communication skills and able to relate with all levels in the organization; and not over 35 years old.

Interested parties may send their resumé with 2"x 2" ID photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
SHOPPING CENTER MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
4/F Benguet Center, ADB Avenue corner
Julia Vargas Street, Ortigas Center
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

OR

Mall Administration Office
SM City Davao
Ecoland Subdivision, Quimpo Boulevard
corner Tulip, Barangay Matina
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SALES EXECUTIVE

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- College graduate, computer literate
- Honest and hard working

Please submit resume at the following outlets:
Basement, SM CITY North EDSA, Quezon City
5/F, Building A, SM MEGAMALL, Mandaluyong City
For inquiries please call ☎ 927-1776 or 929-7479

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Benby Enterprises Inc., the Exclusive Distributor of World Renowned Consumer Food Brands such as Lay's, Doritos and Quaker Oat meal is currently in need of:

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER - MINDANAO

Responsibilities:

- Achieve KPI (Key Performance Indicators) objectives in the region.
- Formulate short and long term programs to expand distribution coverage in the region
- Monitor the effectiveness of the sales and distribution initiatives
- Train and motivate Field Sales Personnel .

Requirements:

- At least a Bachelor's Degree (from reputable universities)in Business Studies
- Between 30-35 years of age. with a minimum of 3-5 years sales management experience in a progressive FMCG distribution company with a solid track record of ACHIEVEMENTS.
- Superior planning, organizational and leadership skills.
- Highly Familiar with the region's Consumer Trade Channels (Supermarkets, Groceries, Convenience Stores, Petrol Marts) & Distributors.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; proficient in computer

Above Industry compensation package, training and opportunities for professional growth awaits the successful candidate.
Interested applicants may forward or fax (on or before Feb.08, 2002) their comprehensive resume to:

THE HRD MANAGER, Benby Enterprises Inc. 1037 Banawe st. , Brgy. Manresa, Quezon City. Fax No. (02) 634-6257 or email: lyra@benby.com

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Qualified applicants may send their resumé with 1x1 ID picture on or before February 10, 2002 to: ELMER DEL ROSARIO at 13 Labo St. cor. Laon-Laan, Quezon City or you may call for an appointment to apply in person at Tel. No. 920-8764 look for Belle

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- Single -
- Computer literate -
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Bring resumé at 1900 Singalong Street, Malate, Manila
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A medium-sized company 25 yrs. in business needs a Sales Manager. Must not be more than 40 yrs. old. Mail detailed Biodata, transcript of school records and recent photo to: Ms. Lalen Alva, M.C.P.O. Box 1937, 1259 Makati City.

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Fax 671-7941 or E-mail: support@cambridge.com.ph

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Department of Finance
Municipal Development Fund Office

Community-Based Resource Management Project

The Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance is inviting applicants to fill in the following positions:

(1) REGIONAL COORDINATOR, Region VIII

Qualifications

- Must hold a bachelor's degree in Rural Development, Forestry, Fisheries, Economics, Environmental Science or any related fields;
- Must have at least five years of progressive supervisory and management experience;
- Must have at least five years experience in community-based NRM projects;
- Excellent communication skills (both oral and written);
- Must possess the ability to work well with government line agencies, local government units, People's Organizations, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts';
- Must be willing to be assigned in Region VIII (Tacloban City); must be able to speak well and understand the local dialect in the region (local residents, preferable); and
- Must be physically fit to travel and conduct periodic subproject supervision and monitoring works in CBRMP-covered municipalities in the region.

Terms of Reference

Reporting to the Project Manager, the successful candidate will have the following tasks:

1. Supervise, plan and direct day-to-day operations, management and maintenance (technical and administrative) of CBRMP Regional Office;
2. Implement and execute CBRMP policies, directives and instructions issued from the Central Office;
3. Mobilize support of partner agencies in the region (BLGF, DA, BFAR, DENR, DILG, and other agencies) to effectively assist LGUs in the implementation of their subproject;
4. Ensure effective implementation of CBRMP subprojects through closer supervision, on-site coaching, and timely response/action on implementation issues and bottlenecks; and

(2) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, Region VIII

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Community Development, Sociology, Human Ecology, Development Communication, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries or related fields;
- At least five years of professional experience in community organizing and development work in people-focused rural development projects, either by government or NGO initiated; preferably with experience of working in foreign-assisted rural development projects with environment resource management component;
- With good technical writing skills and communication skills, and computer literate;
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts;
- Must be able to speak and/or understand the local dialect, preferably from Eastern Visayas; and
- Must be willing and physically fit to travel to remote coastal and upland communities, and interact with LGUs, upland farmers, fisherfolks, village leaders and people's organizations.

Terms of Reference

Reporting to CBRMP Regional Coordinator, the successful candidate will have the following tasks:

1. Ensure compliance by LGU subprojects to guidelines and procedures on the conduct of participatory processes in subproject implementation, monitoring and evaluation and planning/re-planning;
2. Coordinate with regional line agencies, particularly with LGA-DILG, in the provision of various capability building training to implementing LGUs and people's organizations;
3. Ensure that the LGU subproject community organizing and development program is adequately staffed and the community organizers meet the minimum criteria set forth by the CBRMP;
4. Lead and coordinate the work of the Regional Community Development Unit, ensuring that adequate and timely technical assistance, including on-site coaching and mentoring, is provided to LGUs particularly in the area of community organizing and development and livelihood subprojects implementation;
5. Ensure that baseline and monitoring data of participating communities, particularly those related to the LGU community organizers, community/people's organizations profile and livelihood subproject activities are gathered and periodically updated;
6. Review, in collaboration with the Technical Assistant for Community Development, people's organizations Livelihood Management/Business Plans, LGU-Cos community organizing and development plans and reports;
7. Prepare the regional CO/CD report and periodic plan; and
8. Assist the Central CBRMO in documenting "best practices" in subproject implementation by LGUs and communities particularly in the area of community development and livelihood subproject implementation.

(3) FINANCIAL ANALYST, Region VIII

Qualifications

- Must hold a bachelor's degree in accountancy, preferably a Certified Public Accountant;
- Must have at least 3 years experience in government accounting system or any World Bank assisted projects;
- Must possess the ability to work well with government line agencies and local government units;
- Must be physically fit to travel and conduct monitoring of fund releases and disbursements in CBRMP covered municipalities in the region; and
- Must be willing to be assigned in Region VIII (Tacloban City); must be able to speak well and understand the local dialect in the region; local residents, preferable.

Terms of Reference

Reporting to the CBRMP Regional Coordinator, the successful candidate will have the following tasks:

1. Assist LGUs in the preparation of Work and Financial Plan, Financial Reports in coordination with other technical units in RCBRMO;
2. Ensure that books of accounts for CBRMP Regional Office, partner line agencies and LGU beneficiaries are maintained;
3. Follow-up liquidation reports from LGUs and line agencies and monitor books of accounts for CBRMP;
4. Facilitate the submission to CCBRMO/MDFO the request for fund releases of the LGUs and line agencies;
5. Prepare consolidated Work and Financial Plan of RCBRMO to the CCBRMO for incorporation into the CBRMP budget;
6. Review/evaluate/consolidate financial report and other supporting documents submitted by LGUs and line agencies;
7. Prepare financial reports and other monitoring forms required by CCBRMO/MDFO-DOF;
8. Assist the Central FMU in monitoring financial transactions of the LGU/beneficiary communities in the region;
9. Ensure LGU and line agency compliance to CBRMP financial guidelines and policies; and
10. Coordinate with COA on audit matters in the region.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, resumé, transcript of records, complete reference information and 2x2 photo on or before **January 31, 2002** to:

The Project Director
Community Based Resource Management Project
c/o Municipal Development Fund Office
Podium Level, DOF Building
Roxas Blvd. corner P. Ocampo Sr. St.,
Malate, Manila

CORPORATE GUARANTEE & INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.

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Candidates must have the following qualifications:

- Between 25-35 years old
- Must be proficient in oral & written communication
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- Preferably a resident of Pampanga, Bulacan or nearby places.

Interested parties are requested to personally submit their comprehensive resumes, photocopy of transcript of records, recent 2X2 colored pictures and other pertinent credentials to:

Human Resource Department
Carworld Bldg. San Fernando-Olongapo Hi-way
City of San Fernando (Pampanga)
(045) 963-48-51
Telefax (045) 961-56-18

HARIBON FOUNDATION

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- Bachelor of Science graduate preferably in Environmental Science, Biology, Agriculture or Environmental Planning
- units earned in Postgraduate Studies on Environmental Planning an advantage
- equipped with above average oral and written communications skills
- must posses above average planning and analytical skills
- must have working knowledge in legislation and local government
- at least five (5) years of relevant work experience

TECHNICAL OFFICER

- Bachelor of Science graduate preferably in the fields of Biology, Zoology, Botany, Wildlife Biology or Agriculture
- equipped with good oral communication skills
- must posses above average written and research skills
- computer literate
- must be willing to be based anywhere in the Philippines
- with three to five (3-5) years of field work experience

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS (for terrestrial or marine ecosystems)

- Bachelor of Science graduate preferably in Sociology, Community Development, Social Work, Agriculture or Social Forestry
- equipped with good oral and written communications skills
- must posses above average facilitation and coordination skills
- must have working knowledge in legislation and local government
- computer literate
- must be willing to be assigned anywhere in the country
- with three to five (3-5) years field work experience

TRAINING SPECIALIST

- Bachelor of Science graduate preferably in Behavioral Science with units or background in Environmental Science an advantage
- equipped with above average oral and written communications skills
- must be well adept in the training process specifically in training needs assessment, module design and development, implementation and evaluation
- must possess above average inter personal, analytical and platform skills
- computer literate
- with three to five years (3-5) experience in Training and/or other Human Resources related functions

RESEARCH/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Bachelor of Science in Biology graduate preferably major in Marine Biology
- Certified open water SCUBA diver
- equipped with above average oral and written communications skills
- computer literate
- must be willing to work with small-scale fishers and rural communities
- at least one (1) year of relevant work experience; coral-reef monitoring experience an advantage

Due to urgency of requirements,qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume through mail or e-mail to the head office on or before February 15, 2002.
Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

Human Resources and General Services Officer
Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc.
No. 9 Malingap cor. Malumanay Sts., Teacher's Village, Diliman Quezon City
E-mail address: director@haribon.org.ph
For Inquiries Call: 925 3332 loc 42

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Send resumé with picture to:

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Mandaluyong City
E-mail: secura@info.com.ph

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More importantly, Joan and her staff at Health Care Placement Services, Inc. have the reputation for caring about each one of the nurses who travel from the Philippines to the U.S.A.

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Malate, Metro Manila, Philippines
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Interested applicants may send their detailed Curriculum Vitae with photocopies of college diploma, professional license certificate, seminars/trainings, 2" x 2" picture, with contact address and telephone numbers to:

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Cebu - Contact Fara (0919-2983961)
Cebu Plaza Hotel
January 27, 28 & 29, 2002

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January 31, February 1, 2, 3 & 4, 2002

MANILA
EDSA Shangrila Hotel, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
February 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2002

You may contact or send your resumé to corporate office:

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City 6000 Philippines
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2002

RATE
P230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

The Lord will open to them the gate of paradise,
and they will return to that homeland
where there is no death, but only lasting joy.

JOSE MENDOZA ESTEBAN, JR.

22 December 1931 - 25 January 2002

Joe peacefully returned to Our Lord and Creator
At 5:25 Friday morning on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

He is survived by his wife, **MENCHU**; his sons and their wives, **CHIM** and **MABEL**, **ROLY** and **ALEN**, and **RJ** and **LIV**; his grandchildren, **CELINA**, **JOEY**, and **MIGGY**; **JP**, **JONATHAN**, and **RAYA**; and **ANTON** and **RAFA**; and all his relatives and friends in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur; Laur, Nueva Ecija; Davao City; and Baguio City.

His remains lie in state at the **Sanctuario de San Jose Memorial Chapel,** East Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Daily Holy Masses will be held at 7:00 in the evening.

Interment will be after the 8:00 AM Holy Mass on **Wednesday, 30 January 2002**.

Cremation will follow at the **Manila Memorial Park** at Sucat, Parañaque.

Arthur Meliton San Jose

(Husband of **Atty. Dalisay Ople San Jose**)

Joined his Creator on January 22, 2002 at the age of 46.

His bereaved wife **Dalisay (Baby)**; children **Kris Blas, Diana, Francis** and **Bryan**; parents **Ex-Mayor Ciriaco San Jose** (†) and **Councilor Josefa M. San Jose**; sisters **Frances San Jose Panlilio, Councilor Iris San Jose** and **Pinky San Jose** (†); parents-in-law **Senator** and **Mrs. Blas F. Ople**; brothers and sisters-in-law and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the Christ the King Church Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 29, 2002 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Hagonoy Memorial Park, Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad,
Mandaue City, Cebu
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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City, Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any Identification document (I.D.)

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"Blessed are the dead
Who died in the Lord."
Revelation 14:13

COM LIM SI TEE

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 26, 2002 at the age of 90.

Her loving husband **CO BUN CHUN** (†); children **CANDICE CO TY** (†) & **KENNETH TY SR., HENRY L. CO** (†) & **ELIZABETH N. CO** (†), **JAMES L. CO SR.** (†) & **MARY T. CO, LUIS L. CO & PAULINE S. CO, MARY CO SY & THOMAS SY, NATY CO CHUA & EDISON CHUA, LYDIA CO YAP & DEWEY VELOSO YAP, ELIZABETH RACHAEL L. CO, JANET CO LEY & MANUEL LEY, FELY CO SIMPSON & JOHNNY K. SIMPSON**; grandchildren **KENNETH TY JR. & CARMELA TY, HOWARD TY** (†), **GENEVIEVE & TOMMY CHUA, RAY BURTON CO** (†), **MELODY & HOMER LIM, CAROL CO, EDWARD HENRY CO, KEVIN NATHANIEL CO, ANNE MARIE & PATRICK LAWRENCE TAN, DAVID JONATHAN CO, JAMES CO JR., ALVIN MILTON S. CO & BECKY DANTE, BILL LOUIS S. CO & MYRA VELOSO, GAIL BONNIE C. & MAURICE LAUDE, SHARON S. & ASHLEY LAO, SHIREEN S. & JEFFREY KOPP, MATTHEW SY, MARK SY, EDNA MAE C. & ROBERT GEMUS, LYNN ANNE C. & JAMES MOULDS, RUTH KIMBERLY C. & DANIEL NICKLES, LAURENCE EPHRAIM & LAURA SABADIN CHUA, JOSEPH DANIEL CHUA, JOHANN YAP, SOLOMON YAP, DAVE YAP, DON YAP, LAWRENCE & KATRINA TIONGLICO, OLIVER C. TIONGLICO, VIENN C. TIONGLICO, RICHARD NOEL LEY, MONICA JOY LEY, CARLA KAY LEY, RICHMOND REGAN LEY, MIKAELA NATASHA LEY, JEFFREY FILBERT SIMPSON, JANE CRYSTAL SIMPSON**, and **JOY FAITH SIMPSON**; great-grandchildren **CAROLINE GRACE CHUA, HANS MATTHEW LIM, JOHANNA LOREN LIM, CHRISTOPER LAWRENCE TAN, TIMOTHY LAWRENCE TAN, MATTHEW LAWRENCE TAN, NICHOLAS LOUIS V. CO, NICOLE KOPP, HAVEN PAIGE MOULDS, ETHAN N. JAMES MOULDS** and **LANZ RAFAEL TIONGLICO**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla dela Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

Interment to be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

LUBIENGCO "Mang Domeng" GAW

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 24, 2002
at the age of 74.

His loving wife **Aurea**; children, brothers, sister, grandchildren and relatives will surely miss him. We are happy with the thought that he is now with the Lord. May we ask for your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel 4, Funeraria Paz, Recto.

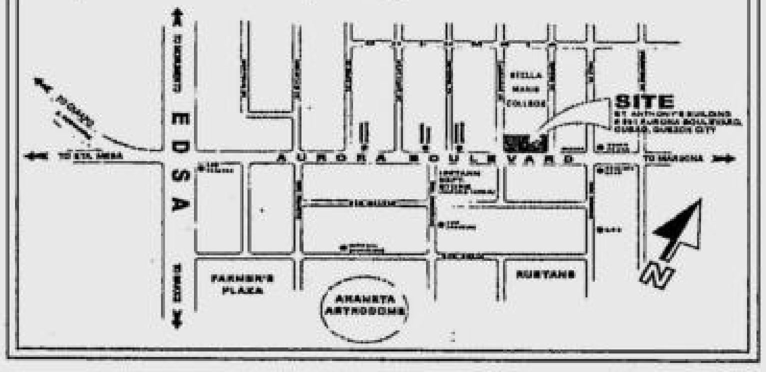
Cremation will be on Monday, January 28, 2002, 2:00 PM at Chinese Cemetery.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



We,
the Administrators, Faculty, Staff and Students of
St. Louis College VALENZUELA
express condolences to the family of our beloved President

Agnes Olivares Luciano

and request the readers to join us in praying for her journey to eternal life.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the
ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
will be appreciated.

Her remains lie in state at 838 Turo, Bocaue, Bulacan.
Interment will be on January 29, 2002, Tuesday at Sta. Maria Catholic Cemetery after the Holy Mass at 2:30p.m.,
La Purisima Concepcion Parish, Sta. Maria, Bulacan

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

FELICISIMA MAKALINAO y RELUCIO "CHING"

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 23, 2002

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who in many other ways, condoled with and comforted us in our time of great sorrow.

ROMULO C. GELLACO

of Biñan, Laguna and Quezon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 26, 2002 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife **Carmelita** (†); children **Emmanuel, Nelo & Margarita, Carmina, Charina & Thomas**; grandchildren **Neal & Princess Carmen, Renz & Gelo** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel C-1, La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 31, 2002 at the San Pedro Municipal Cemetery, San Pedro, Laguna after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Past Governor

JOSE REMULLA SANDEJAS, SR.

of Kiwanis International Philippine Luzon District
and of Silang, Cavite

peacefully joined his Creator on January 23, 2002
at the age of 85.

His loving wife **Olie**; children and in-laws **Lenny** and **Polding Lavilla, Ofie & Manolo Poblete, Ginia** and **Tito Rosales, Ellie, Boy** and **Carla, Cora** and **Mar, Jeanette** and **Mandy**; grandchildren **April & Roel Gines, Gladys & Allan Arabejo, Kit & Jolyn, Ian, Mara, Migu, Janric, Nini & Clint Arabejo, Marc, Joey, Inna, Carlo, Joanne, Joel, Clarise, Cathy, Sarah, Janelle, MJ** and **Joben**; great grandchildren **Pauline, Paolo, Rainiel, Alanys** and **Jenina**; mother-in-law **Rosa Sernal**; sisters and brothers-in-law, nephews and nieces, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at their family residence, #47 J. Rizal Street, Barangay Sabutan, Silang, Cavite.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 29, 2002 at the Jardin de San Gabriel, Silang, Cavite after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Nstra Sra. de Candelaria Parish Church.

Our Dearly Beloved

Teofisto *"Pistong"* Miguel Jiao, Sr.

Born March 23, 1932

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 23, 2002.

His bereaved wife **Ma. Milagrosa**; children **Ma. Arsenia, Luisa, Ma. Josefina, Teofisto Jr., Edilberto, Reynaldo, Estrella, Rustan** and **Cecilia**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Paul of the Cross Parish Church, Rainbow St., SSS Village, Marikina.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 29, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after a Requiem Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

RESTITUTO J. TRAJANO

of San Vicente, Malolos, Bulacan
who joined our Creator on January 12, 2002
wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you,
who during our time of bereavement, condoled with us,
offered and said Masses, prayers and flowers,
kept vigil and joined us in the interment.
May God Bless Us All.

Herbs for urban gardeners

THE RELAXING scent of herbs growing right at home used to be something we only read about in foreign books and magazines. It used to frustrate many cooks to suddenly come across recipes that asked for fresh leaves of rosemary, sage, basil or thyme. Now, these flavorful ingredients can be harvested right from one's backyard. All it takes is one quick drive to GreenHearts The Garden Shop in Quezon City for a few starter plants one can grow right at home.

Situated at the corner of Mother Ignacia Avenue and Scout Reyes Street, GreenHearts offers a convenient destination within the city that offers a wide variety of herbs that can easily be grown in the lowlands. An assortment of gardening essential and organic aids are also available to help even beginning gardeners grow bountiful kitchen gardens.

At GreenHearts, you won't find any fancy nursery equipment that the plants need in order to grow. All the potted herbs are grown under conditions any average home in the city can provide. Best of all, GreenHearts herbs are organically grown, which means absolutely no chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used. With the growing awareness regarding the value of organically grown food, many homeowners appreciate being able to pick their fresh herbs right from their own garden. This guarantees more than just freshness and rich flavor, it also assures them of the kind of care the plants receive: of having no chemicals or manure sprayed on the leaves.

GreeHearts offers only live potted plants; not fresh-cut or dried leaves. The herb varieties available change from month to month, but most of the common culinary favorites are continuously being propagated. Among basil varieties alone, you can choose between sweet, lemon, Thai, cinnamon, clove and rubin basil, to name a few. GreenHearts is open daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For inquiries, call 411-6868 or visit www.greenhearts.com.

MSD SUPPORTS PGH SHUNTS! PROJECT

Pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Philippines has supported the PGH SHUNTS! project of the Philippine General Hospital and the Phi Lambda Delta Sorority of the UP College of Medicine to help finance the ventro-peritoneal shunts of indigent children suffering from hydrocephalus at the PGH. Christine Liwanag (center), MSD corporate affairs director, presented the company's contribution to Dr. Louella Aquino, superior sister exemplar of the Phi Lambda Delta Sorority (second from left) in simple ceremonies held at the PGH. Looking on are PGH medical director Dr. Juan Nañagas (extreme left), SHUNTS! project advisor Dr. Annabel Chua (second from right), and PGH-MSD resource center officer Evelyn Kabiling (extreme right). MSD has been active in improving the health and well-being of Filipinos through breakthrough medicines and innovative services to the healthcare community.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines

FINEX OFFICERS, DIRECTORS INDUCTED

The officers and directors of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines for 2002 pose with inducting officer Senate president Franklin M. Drilon after the ceremony. Shown, from left, are Finex directors Benjamin R. Punongbayan, Cynthia V. Subijano, Luis C. Liwanag III, Jaime Y. Ladao, corporate secretary Benito G. Soliven III, executive vice president Edgardo L. Limon, Drilon, president Conchita L. Manabat, director George S. Chua, vice president for internal affairs Grace P. Tiongco and treasurer Ronnie P. Alcantara. Other officers (not shown) are director Mercedes B. Suleik, vice president for external affairs Fortunato B. Cruz, vice president for capital markets development David L. Balangue, and vice president for professional development Senen L. Matoto.

Truckloads of goods await Batangueños

MAKRO, the pioneer in the distribution system and merchandising of consumer goods, is set to open its doors to Batangueños on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 7 a.m.

Batangueños will delight in the wide array of fresh and frozen foods, meat and poultry, fish, fruits, vegetables, sacks of rice, clothes, appliances, office tables and chairs and boxes upon boxes of school supplies, office supplies, canned goods, and dry goods.

Makro is a wholesome, volume driven, cash and carry operation which aims to help retailers, restaurants, hotels, schools, hospitals and offices in the community.

Thus, licensed businesses can visit the Makro store to become a member. Just bring valid mayor's permit and identification, fill up the application form and you'll get a temporary trade card so you can shop at once.

Makro Batangas is located at the National Road corner Provincial Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City. The store measures 7,400 sqm. and provides 400 parking bays.

Makri Batangas is the 9th store in the Philippines. Other Makro stores are in Cainta, Imus, Novaliches, Sucat, Manila Harbor Center, Cebu, Davao and Pampanga.

BILLIARD TOURNEYS AT ROBINSONS

Robinsons Malls have been appointed as the official venue for the Barcelona Battle for Gold Billiard Tournaments. Present during the contract signing were (from left) Allan Q. Cruz, Robinsons Malls ad and promo manager, Jojie Acuna, tournament director for NBN, and Rollie Baron, sales manager for NBN. The country's foremost cue artists joined the Barcelona Battle for the Gold Billiard Tournaments, with the second and final rounds held at the fountain area of Robinsons Galleria last Jan. 19 and at the Orosa Atrium of Robinsons Place Manila on Jan. 26. The games were shown live at NBN Channel 4.

Meryll smiles when she drinks Milk Magic

TEEN STAR Meryll Soriano recently signed up as the endorser of Milk Magic, the newest addition to the popular UHT Tetrapak milk.

Milk Magic Fresh Milk is wholly made in Australia and is manufactured by Murray Goulburn, the biggest and largest producer of dairy products in Australia. Milk Magic is totally free from FMD (foot and mouth disease), Mad Cow disease, Dioxin and other diseases.

Milk Magic is the first in the market to introduce the latest packaging from Tetrapak. The "slim box" type, which looks very much like the table top fresh milk box popular in the United States and Canada, is now available with a resealable, easy-to-open flip-type cap. One wouldn't have a hard time opening the new Tetrapak design.

Meryll was chosen because of her wholesome and clean image, and because of her energy, humor and brains—characteristic of a healthy girl full of life. Meryll, in real life, loves to drink milk.

During the pictorial, on-set clowns made Meryll smile. This concept was taken from Leonardo Da Vinci's technique of hiring nearly a hundred clowns to make Mona Lisa smile as she posed.

Milk Magic is now available in all leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide. For more information, call 242-4305.

CLTS SPONSORS UNESCO LECTURE

The Center for Learning and Teaching Styles (CLTS) Philippines sponsored the prestigious Dr. Raja Roy Singh lecture during the recently concluded 7th Unesco-Aceid International Conference on Education held in Bangkok, Thailand. Shown from left is Ross Treadwell of the Department of Education, Training and Employment, South Australia; Henry Tenedero, CLTS president, and professor Raymond Morel of the Center Pedagogique des Technologies de Information in Geneva. CLTS is convening its third National Education Conference on Learning Styles on Feb. 11 and 12, at the Philippine International Convention Center with the theme 'Festival of Learning Styles and Teaching Strategies.' For details, call 374-4967 or 936-6790, or e-mail henyo@iconex.net.

DUMEX SPONSORS POKEMON TCG

Hundreds of kids of all ages had a great time at the SM Megatrade Hall where the Pokemon Trading Card Game was recently held. Dumex Philippines sponsored the event and provided refreshing and nutritious Dumex 1 Plus and Dumex 3 Plus Growing Up Milk for all kids to enjoy. The event was highlighted with the appearance of Dex, the official mascot of Dumex 3 Plus Growing Up Milk. Dex is shown with a wide-eyed Dumex champ.

BITS Clips

CFS lines up seminars

CFS Continental Technology offers the short-course training the trainer seminar designed to equip supervisors and managers with skills on customer service on Jan. 30, 2002, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The creative selling and telemarketing seminar is on Feb. 1, 1 a.m.-5 p.m. and 9 a.m.-12 p.m., respectively. The seminar includes specific modules that will assist participants in designing their own training programs for the staff and tips on effectively conducting the training sessions. CFS also lines up "Prospecting and Creative Approach in Marketing" on Feb. 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This is a workshop crafted to meet participants' growth targets through techniques such as gathering names of prospects and starting the conversation. Call 8232358 and 8234825.

Cole guests in IABC confab

ON JAN. 29, the International Association of Business Communicators Philippine chapter will be holding its first National Conference of Communications Professionals at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City. The conference theme is "Communication in an Age of Disruptive Change." The event features two guest speakers: internationally acclaimed educator Dr. Johnetta Cole and Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala. The National Conference is also the venue for the first-ever Gold Quill Philippines Awards which recognizes the best communications programs in the country. There are also workshops, an industry exhibit, a book sale and a silent auction slated for the national conference.

'Price War' rages on at LIG

THE LINEA Italia Group's (LIG) 'Price War' continues to rage this January with even better deals for all fashion lovers. All Italian merchandise (including previously discounted items)—from clothes and shoes to bags and accessories for both and women—continue to be available at half their prices. The 'Price War' is on at Linea Italia 6750, Versace Jeans Couture (Greenbelt), Prima Linea (Greenbelt, SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Uomo (SM Megamall, SM Cebu and Park Square I), Uomo Tu (Greenbelt, Ayala Center Cebu), Viva (SM Megamall, SM Cebu), Capolinea (Greenbelt, SM Cebu), and Corso Marconi at Marconi corner Morse Streets, Makati City (main branch), Festival Supermall Alabang, Robinsons Galleria, SM Manila, Cebu, and the new Corso Marconi Bacolod.

Fine Chinese antique furniture

THERE is mush to be said for an exhibition with a cultural focus within a defined span of time. It is an exhilaratingly novel experience to walk through the furniture of rich Mandarins. Now you can own them. The Tomlinson Collection is having a sale of up to 40-percent until Feb. 3 at its Makati showroom at 40 Jupiter Street corner Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Bel-Air Village. Discover the soul of art residing in Chinese antique furniture. Call Menchie or Vida at 890-9302, 895-7618, or e-mail tomlinson@skyinet.net for details.

ANOTHER CONTRACT FOR PPMI

The Makati Tuscany Condominium Corp. (MTCC), a new addition to the roster of condominium buildings administered by PRHC Property Managers Inc. (PPMI), recently signed a contract appointing PPMI to handle the integrated property administration and management requirements of the 26-story plush residential condominium along Ayala Avenue in Makati City. Among the top three property management firms in the country, PPMI is known for its outstanding reputation in property management. The company manages and administers close to 15 residential and office condominiums and commercial complexes in Metro Manila. Shown (from left) is Mario L. Reyes, MTCC treasurer, with PPMI president Miguel Ortigas, Jr, MTCC president Theodore V. Awad, MTCC vice president Lourdes B. Locsin, and MTCC corporate secretary Josefina D. Pineda. Shown standing (from left) are MTCC director Benjamin de Vera, MTCC director and member of the house committee Miguel A. Cano, MTCC building administrator Marivic S. Aguilar, MTCC director Sergio O. Valencia, and MTCC house committee chair Mila Wales.

NUMERARY MEMBERSHIP FOR JESUIT

Fr. Miguel A. Bernad, S.J., historian, researcher, lecturer and teacher, was recently conferred a numerary membership in the prestigious Academia Filipina de la Lengua Española in ceremonies held recently at the Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Campus. Shown are (from left) Don Jose Rodriguez y Rodriguez, director, Academia Filipina de la Lengua Española, Fr. Miguel A. Bernad and Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., president of the Ateneo de Manila University.

N 3310 Raffle Pr
Nov. 29

MSV DRAWS NOKIA WINNER

DTI director Arnaldo del Rosario (left) is seen with Dottie Pineda of Bookware Publishing Corp. during the recent monthly draw of the Nokia 3310 raffle promo held at the company's offices in Pasig City. For the readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, the lucky winner is Fritzie Amores of Danao City, Cebu. The company also announces that it is still accepting manuscripts from new romance novelists. For details, call 631-8893-94.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

The **NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY (NDA),** a government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA), invites interested bidders to submit sealed written tenders for the following laboratory equipment:

1 unit	Heating and Drying Oven
1 unit	Water Bath
1 unit	Safety Cabinet (Laminar Flow)
1 unit	Steam Sterilizer / Autoclave
2 units	Microbiological Incubator
1 unit	Colony Counter
1 unit	Top Loading Balance
1 unit	Hotplate with Magnetic Stirrer
2 units	Pipette Top Aspirator
1 unit	Trinocular Microscope
1 unit	Video Monitor
2 units	2-10 ml Dispenser
2 units	10-60 ml Dispenser

For purposes of clarifying issues re: specifications, terms and conditions, a **prebid conference** will be held on **January 29, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Shahani-Acosta Conference Room, NDA Building, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Pre-Bid and Awards Committee at the above address not later than **1:30 p.m. on February 7, 2002** and shall then be publicly opened immediately thereafter. All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the bid amount in the form of cash, cashier's/manager's check or GSIS guarantee bond issued in favor of NDA. All bidders are also required to submit together with the bid documents, an authenticated copy of their business license/registration, latest audited financial statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statements), latest income tax return (original to be shown for authentication purposes) and a copy of the organization's profile.

NDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any information therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to NDA.

(Sgd.) **SALVACION M. BULATAO**
Administrator

(PDI – Jan. 20 & 27, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

The **NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY (NDA),** a government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA), invites interested bidders to submit sealed written tenders for the following laboratory equipment:

3,539 straws	100% Holstein-Freisian (For upgrading)
2,266 straws	75% - 25% Holstein-Sahiwal
2,046 straws	62.5% Holstein-Sahiwal
1,289 straws	50% - 50% Holstein-Sahiwal
300 packs	Straw Sheaths (with each pack of 50 straw sheaths = 15,000 pcs.)
124 boxes	A.I. Gloves (124 bxs of 100 pcs./box)
225 bottles	Lutalyze
400 bottles	Prostavet
300 bottles	CIDR

For purposes of clarifying issues re: specifications, terms and conditions, a **prebid conference** will be held on **February 8, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Shahani-Acosta Conference Room, NDA Building, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Pre-Bid and Awards Committee at the above address not later than **1:30 p.m. on February 15, 2002** and shall then be publicly opened immediately thereafter. All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the bid amount in the form of cash, cashier's/manager's check or GSIS guarantee bond issued in favor of NDA. All bidders are also required to submit together with the bid documents, an authenticated copy of their business license/registration, latest audited financial statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statements), latest income tax return (original to be shown for authentication purposes) and a copy of the organization's profile.

NDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any information therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to NDA.

(Sgd.) **SALVACION M. BULATAO**
Administrator

(PDI – Jan. 27 & Feb. 3, 2002)

HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Expanded National Capital Region Field Office
2nd Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **FREEDOM TO BUILD, INC.** (owner/developer) has/have filed with this Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of lots with housing components at **HORACIO V. DE LA COSTA HOMES V** located at **Brgy. Burgos, Montalban, Rizal** specifically described as **Lot 2 Pcs-04-012934 under TCT No. 351251.**

All papers relative thereto shall upon request and payment of processing fee, be available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon.

Absent any legal impediment, the above-cited project is deemed registered and a certificate, in evidence thereof, shall forthwith be issued after Ten (10) days from the last day of publication.

Quezon City, Metro Manila
January 24, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JESSE A. OBLIGACION**
Regional Director

(PDI - Jan. 27, 2002)

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NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the dissolution of TEL MANILA INC. has been presented to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All persons having claim against said corporation are requested to present the same at its office at Unit 3 Sunny Realty Compound, Sandoval Avenue, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, Metro Manila.

This Announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the closure of said Corporation.

TEL MANILA INC.

(PDI - Jan. 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Jeriel U. Mallari has filed a claim of self-adjudication in connection w/ the estate of the late Mercedes U. Mallari under affidavit of self adjudication signed by the Notary Public Vicente G. Villamil under Reg. 441, Page 89 Book 352, Series of 2002
(PDI- Jan-20, 27 & Feb- 3, 2002)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **BUENAVENTURA ALLANIGUE DIONISIO** was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#287, Page#59, Book#88 Series of 2001 under Not. Public Felipe G. Antonio.
(PDI-Jan. 20, 27 & Feb. 3, 2002)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **CONCEPCION C. HAUTEA** had been the subject of a deed of Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate among Heirs with Authority to Sell under Doc. No. 1, Page 1, Book No. I, Saires of 2002 in the Notarial Registry of Atty. Wendell E. Coronel of Makati City.
(PDI-Jan. 22, 27 & Feb. 3, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AMBROSIO S. LORENZO has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc. No. 287, Page No. 59, Book No. 18, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Hilarion T. Omadto Jr. (PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & 10, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
Stock Certificate of MITSUBISHI CORPORATION under the name of NAOYUKI NOBE S.Cert.No.18 w/1 Share Dated March 23, 2001.If no contest presented w/in 3 consecutive week of publication,new cert. will be issued
(PDI-Jan.27,Feb3&10,2002

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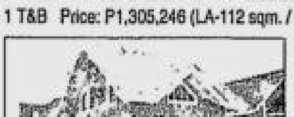

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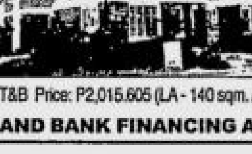

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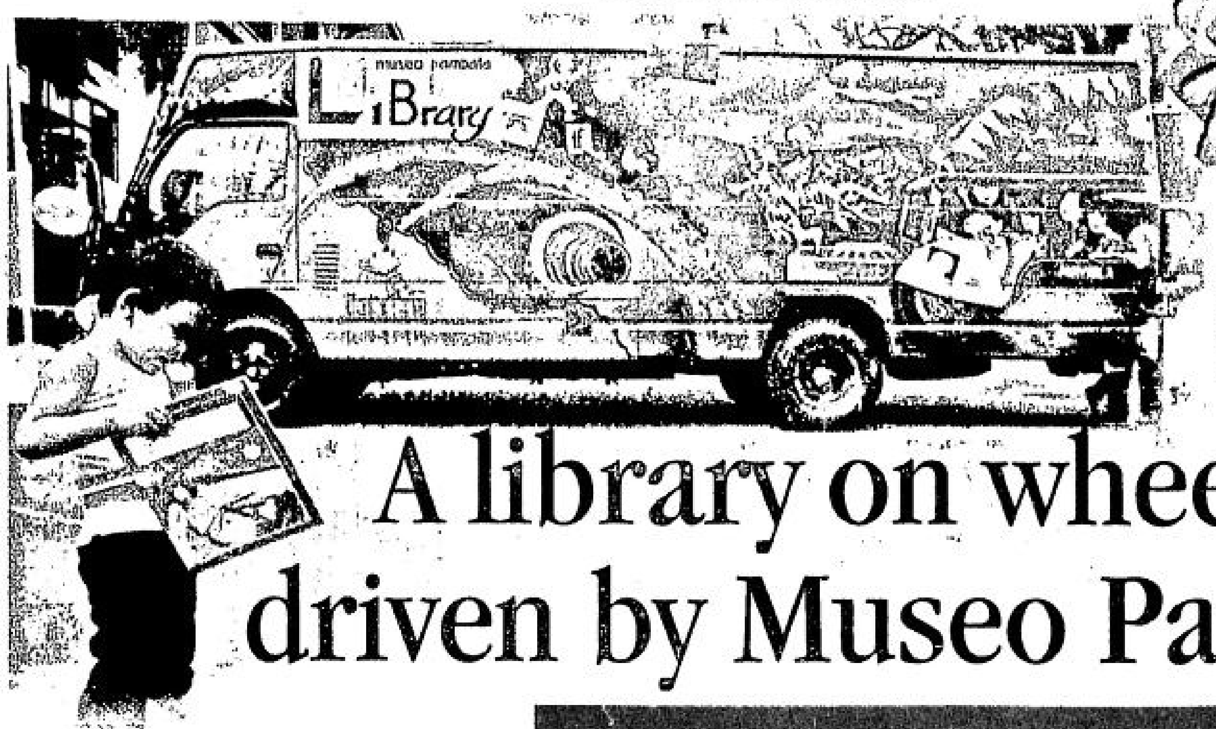

DELIVERY van for books was painted by UP visual arts students.

A library on wheels driven by Museo Pambata

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

AS a gift to children with little or no access to books, Museo Pambata has transformed an Isuzu NPR truck into a colorful library on wheels that will carry 3,000 books and other learning aids to different barangays in Metro Manila.

The mobile library, which was launched in December, lends books and holds storytelling sessions in depressed communities, public parks, welfare centers and hospitals to give kids the chance to enjoy the benefits of reading.

Museo Pambata started the mobile library program in 1995 with a Tamaraw FX, a little over 50 books, and two to three volunteer storytellers.

Through the generous funding of the Ford Foundation, the program was recently set up in 25 communities, establishing mini children's libraries in eight Manila barangays. Petron, on the other hand, has committed to power the van for one year. The truck, bought by Paramount General Insurance for P800,000, was made attractive by visual arts students of the University of the Philippines.

The books, mostly for preschool, elementary and high school students, range from fairy tales to science stories.

"Reading books is one way of instilling aspirations in man and awakening the imagination of children," says early childhood educator and Museo Pambata president Nina Lim-Yuson. "We hope that the mobile library will give less fortunate kids access to good books. More importantly, the program hopes to stir in students a life-long desire to learn."

Key to better life

Of the children who avail of the government's free education program, only six out of 10 manage to finish grade school. Those who attend classes have to put up with limited school hours, lack of learning materials, overcrowded classrooms and generally poor quality of education.

To enhance the lives of such kids, Museo Pambata provides them with alternative learning opportunities like the mobile library program (MLP).

Five communities are visited in a week. Each book-lending and storytelling session is attended by a minimum of 40 children and 10 adults. Training workshops for kids, parents, day-care workers, librarians and community leaders are also organized. Volunteers from different fields have been trained as storytellers, visual art and storytelling facilitators. Museo Pambata continues to recruit volunteer workers.

From 1998 to 2000, four mini libraries with 250 locally published children's books

A LIBRARY/p.C4

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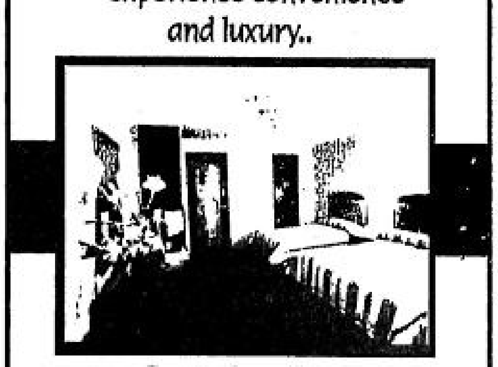

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Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 235
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Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 235
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC FR and send to 235
Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 235
Screen Savers List of Keywords	SAVER FR and send to 235
Screen Savers*	SAVER <keyword> and send to 235
Help on the Commands	HELP and send to 235

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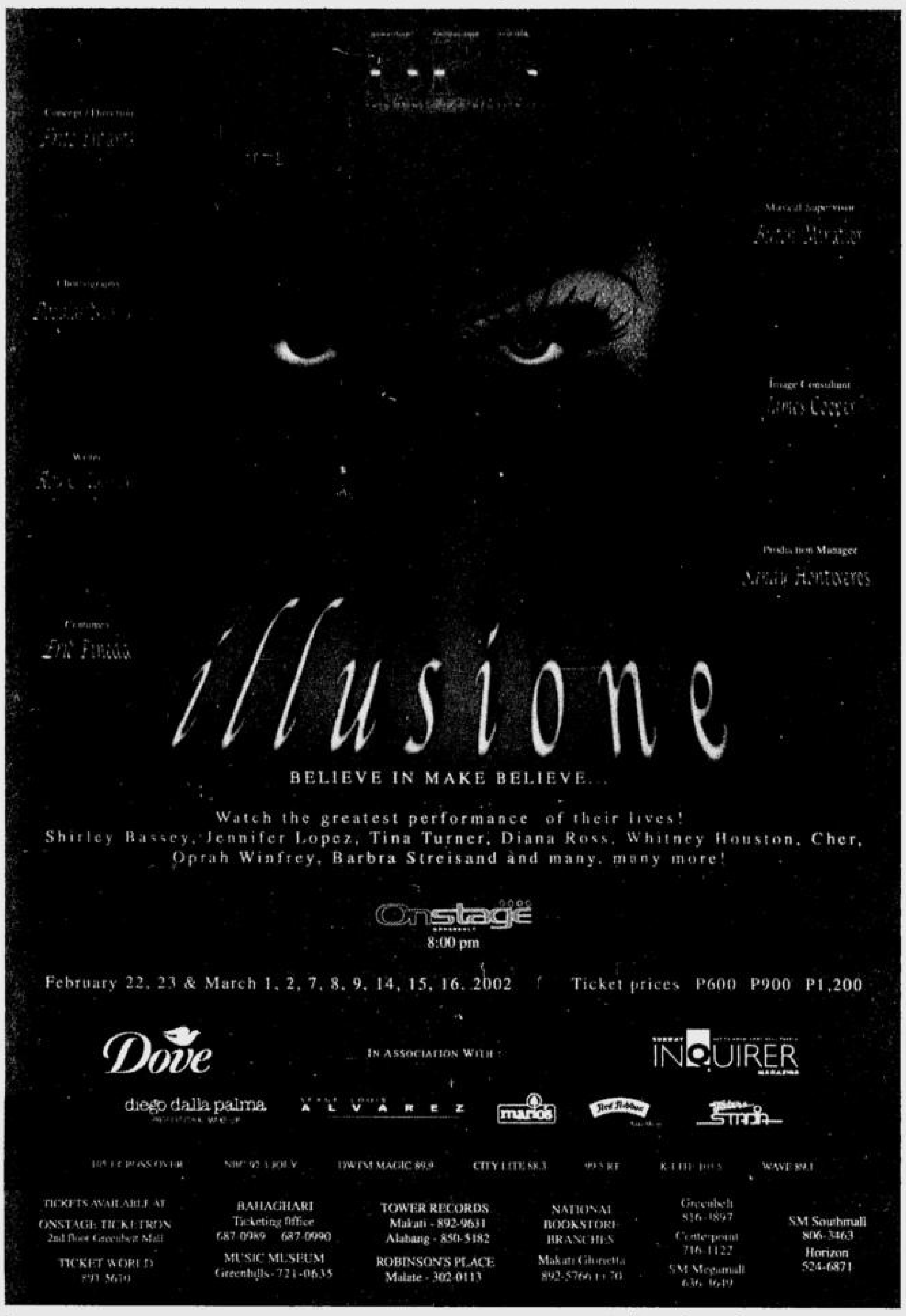
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SUNDAY CROSSWORD

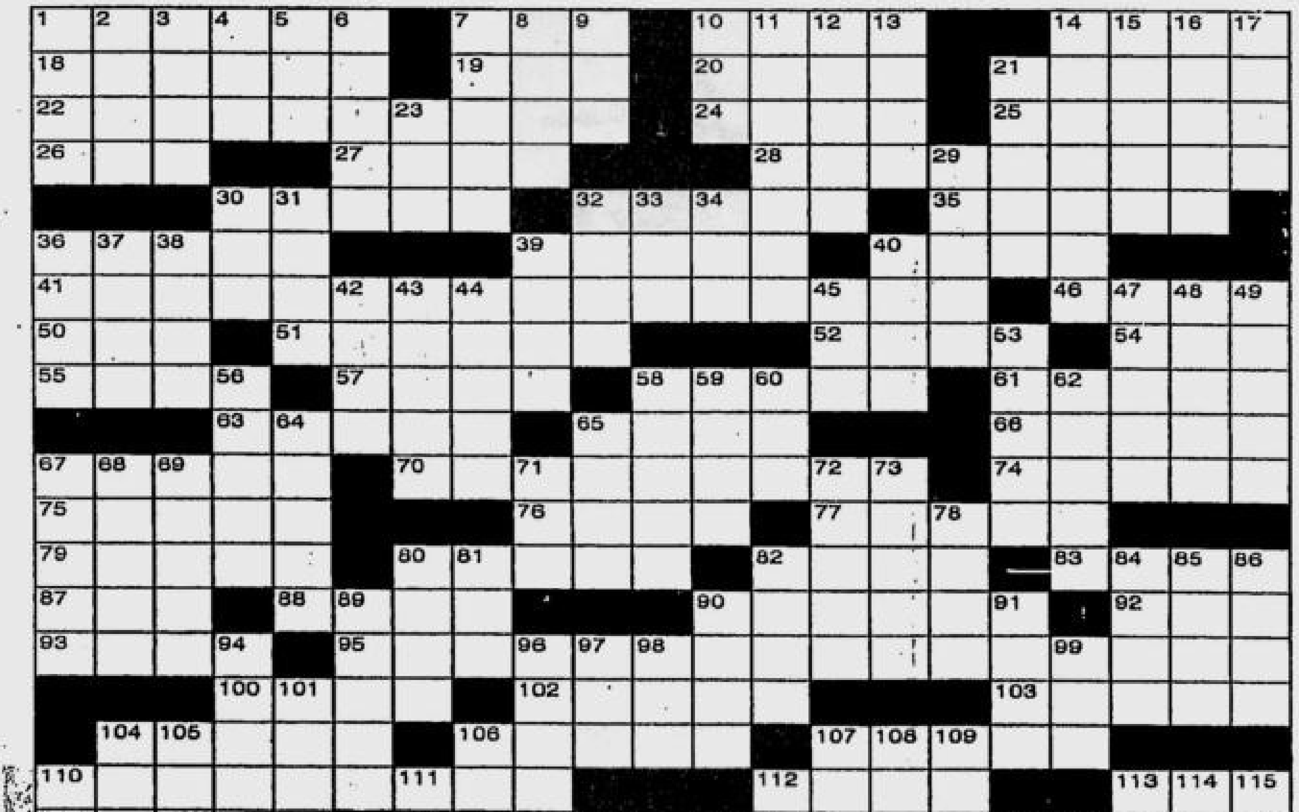
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

ACROSS

1 Seaside shelter
7 Zoo baby
10 Donated
14 Capone feature
18 Incarnation
19 Genetic info
20 Surrounded by
21 Singer Melba
22 Start of a remark
24 Leaf
25 Light weight?
26 Shoemaker's tool
27 TV's "Empty —"
28 Wine choice
30 Ray
32 Frantic Fawlty
35 Wrapped up
36 Hersey town
39 Upscale shop
40 Contemptible
41 Part 2 of remark
46 Funnyman Foxx
50 Roth —
51 Coffee or cognac
52 Orient
54 Singer Salonga
55 Reasonable
57 Actress Jean
58 Origami supply
61 Word with nose or numeral
63 Pop in
65 Any
66 — -garde
67 Monty Python's Michael
70 Part 3 of remark
74 Tightly packed
75 Overact
76 Director David
77 Conclude
79 Go over
80 Calculating reptile?
82 To — (perfectly)
83 Petite pie
87 TV-listing abbr.
88 British pol
90 Straightens
92 Bud's buddy
93 Foyer
95 Part 4 of remark
100 Qatar's continent
102 Wing
103 Discernment
104 Peripatetic Polo
106 Soft
107 Manzanillo man
110 Liberace's birthplace
112 Lacquered metalware
113 "The Simpsons" character
116 Atelier item
117 Mulgrew or Moss
119 End of remark
122 Polish prose
123 List entry
124 Letters of credit?
125 Baltimore bird
126 Compassion
127 Pedestal part
128 Mongrel
129 Got what one basked for

DOWN

1 Biblical town
2 Profess
3 Cry like a baby
4 ABA member
5 Uh-uh
6 Where the action is
7 Make waves?
8 Component
9 — -relief
10 Cumberland —
11 Remarkable
12 Watch
13 Temptation location
14 '72 Cicely Tyson film
15 Publisher Nast
16 Shaped like a bow
17 Lively dance
21 Complains
23 Ump
29 Rock's Tears for —
30 — -Cat
31 Wolf wail
32 Like Mussorgsky's mountain
33 Clay, today
34 Offspring
36 Sale stipulation
37 Mrs. David Copperfield
38 Deejay Freed
39 "— Crazy" ('80 film)
40 Sow's sweetheart
42 Outer limits
43 Furnish
44 Simon's "Plaza —"
45 Charge
47 Violinist Mischa
48 Big men on campus
49 Poet Rossetti
53 Carpentry or printing
56 Lloyd Webber musical
58 — bear
59 Congregational comeback
60 Basilica feature
62 Public
64 Bumbling
65 "Graf —"
67 Australian city
68 Basic organism
69 Anesthesia type
71 Vintage
72 Bandleader's phrase
73 Russian lake
78 — shui
80 Zone
81 Turn blue?
82 Rocker Van Halen
84 "The Sound of Music" setting
85 Carrot or parsnip
86 Adjust an Amati
89 Tearjerker?
90 Made wine divine
91 Muchacha, for short
94 Theft
96 Intimidated
97 Big bang letters
98 "Wild —" ('60 hit)
99 Singer Janis
101 Reprimand
104 Biscayne Bay city
105 Selling point
106 Mazda model
107 — d'Alene, ID
108 City on the Danube
109 Intoxicate
110 Show sorrow
111 Lose control
112 What you used to be
113 Bard's river
114 Soccer superstar
115 Secondhand
118 Funnyman Philips
119 Spasm
120 History division
121 China's — Biao



ANSWER ON PAGE E2

The school believes that its students have the same potential for growth inherent in all children

MATH teacher Allan Susarno holds a remedial class for some high school students.

SAID's speech auditory training room

SAID mentors teach and inspire students

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

MA. Luz Cabutihan, Baby Ruth Reyes and Rosalyn Ramos cannot hear, but their imaginations are boundless, and what they can't hear, they can feel in their souls.

Cabutihan, Reyes and Ramos are teachers at the Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf (SAID), their alma mater, and have been inspiring students there for many years now. They give students hope that they can also overcome the biggest of obstacles.

The three SAID teachers—Cabutihan, a business management graduate; Reyes, child development; and Ramos—are now working toward their master's degree in special education.

"I used to feel insecure about my being deaf even if my family had been very supportive. They tried learning sign language so they could communicate with me. But now I've learned to accept my disability," says Cabutihan, 35, through her younger sister May, the SAID principal. The elder sister was born deaf.

On the other hand, Reyes, 25, lost her hearing when she was 8 years old after she was given the wrong medicine for a high fever.

"Some people have been saying I became deaf for a purpose—so I could teach deaf children," says Reyes, who can talk but refrains from doing so when in front of strangers.

For Cabutihan, Reyes and Ramos, their job is not just about educating the deaf but about the power of communication, language and cooperation as a means of expression. Everyone involved with SAID has been struck by the strength of the bond between students and mentors.

"The patience, focus and creativity of these teachers are truly admirable. So are the students, who are mostly doing well in their studies despite their disability," says Susan Macuja, SAID executive director, whose parents are both deaf.

School for hearing impaired

SAID was founded in 1974 by Ruben Bonoan. He didn't know where to enrol his eldest child, Stella, a deaf retardate. He didn't want to go abroad and uproot his family. So he asked help from a friend, Cesar Macuja, then managing director of the accounting firm Sycip, Gorres and Velayo (he has been SAID chair since 1979), to do a feasibility study on schools for the deaf.

Originally known as Total Communication Foundation Inc., the school opened with two students in New Manila, QC. When it started, it only accepted hearing-impaired children from age 18 months to 5 years. After two years, the school relocated to a house in Cubao, QC, and then to Dapitan Extension, QC.

In 1981, what was then Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (now department) allowed SAID to offer a complete elementary education program. Authorized to operate classes in the secondary level in 1982, the school moved to the Miriam College compound.

Now having 109 students in preschool, elementary and high school, SAID sets 19 years as the age limit for a resident student.

In the late '70s until the '80s, American Peace Corps volunteers, mostly graduates of Gallaudet University, conducted summer teaching training programs and seminars on sign language, language development for the hearing impaired, sign communication and education, and psychology of the hearing impaired. In 1986, the tripartite educational consortium, a crash graduate program for SAID teachers, was launched at Miriam College.

Dedicated to the spiritual, intellectual, psychological and emotional development of every deaf child, SAID firmly believes that within each of its students lies the same potential for growth inherent in all children.

"It's an injustice not to provide these children with proper education just because they're deaf. We've encountered 6-year-old kids who were so wild simply because they could not communicate with their own families. They would sometimes bang their heads against walls. After a month at SAID, most of these children are transformed," says Macuja.

Even though the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) has been supporting SAID for many years now, Macuja says this is not enough. This is why the school continues to look for funds and sponsors.

"Aside from sponsorships, we also depend on parents of our students to increase their socialized donations, which vary every year. There are 20 students from indigent families who are practically not paying tuition fees. We're glad that most parents are cooperative, but there are still those who cannot accept their children's handicap."

Total communication

Knowing that a deaf child's handicap is language deprivation, SAID has adopted the Total Communication philosophy. A multilevel approach to the education of deaf children, it includes all language modalities, child-devised gestures, formal language of signs, speech, speech reading, finger spelling, amplification of residual hearing, reading and writing.

"Such a philosophy focuses on the child's abilities rather than his disabilities. It's a constant endeavor to communicate with the child in a way that he can understand. So we suggest that a deaf child be exposed to speech therapy as early as 3 years old," says May Cabutihan, 27, SAID principal who also teaches physics.

She joined SAID because of her eldest sister, Luz, who teaches there. "I learned sign language from her because most of the time she would communicate with me. She was very patient in teaching me."

But the older Cabutihan, like her coteacher Baby Ruth Reyes, can talk in her own voice, a deeply resonant sound that has been shaped and molded over the years by trial and error.

When asked about their future dreams, Reyes says she intends to stay at SAID as long as she could, and have a family of her own if she'd meet the right person. Cabutihan, on the other hand, says she's planning to put up her own school for the deaf so she could help more deaf children. "Teaching the deaf and being with them is my vocation."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

SAID graduates (from left) Baby Ruth Reyes, Ma. Luz Cabutihan and Rosalyn Ramos are now teaching at SAID while taking up different masteral courses.

SAID staff includes (from left) Joji Alcantara, speech teacher and associate academic director; Baby Manahan, liaison officer for college program at Miriam; Susan Macuja, executive director; May Cabutihan, principal; and Jing Cadiz, math teacher and director for administration

Consumers' banking and other woes

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

A FOREIGNER who has lived in Manila for four years now is dismayed by customer service at local banks. He complains that remittances from abroad take so long to reach recipients.

In this era of instantaneous electronic communications, they should indeed be faster.

He wrote: "There is no excuse for the 13 days my last remittance took to arrive from London. The expectation is that two working days should see the arrival of money. But 13 days is just too much, even making allowance for the antiquated practice of using correspondent banks through which remittances must travel on their way to one's account."

He added that customer service did not even bother to answer the letters he wrote. "When is the banking authority going to open its eyes to the improper and authoritarian attitude prevalent in the system?"

Another disgruntled bank customer, Mark Chua, also shared his frustrations. Sometime last year, he tried to use rewards voucher to get discounts, as advertised in the catalog of his bank. However, salespersons at supposedly partner-establishments said they were under instructions to stop accepting vouchers.

"I wasn't able to use the voucher. Upon complaining, I got all the points I redeemed in exchange for the voucher, (but I just decided to keep them) as souvenir." Chua also griped that credit card statements of account didn't arrive on time.

Exasperated by the delays, he requested the bank to cancel his Visa card. Earlier, he had asked the bank to consolidate and convert to air miles all the outstanding reward points from his cards. But after three months he had yet to see all the points converted.

"I have been a responsible and loyal cardholder for over one year and a half. It's so disheartening to see that this is what I get." For the name of the bank, readers can e-mail Chua at mbchua@quickweb.com.ph

Waiting for product replacement

Calling Letterman Marketing to send a replacement for the anti-pest electric device that a customer in Davao ordered by mail. The customer said she paid P4,350 for two units of Pestaway Pet Repeller, one for herself and one for her friend. Her unit had to be returned, however, because the plug did not fit into the wall socket. She had to wait for several months before she received the replacement. However, it had the same problem and had to be returned again.

"I am still waiting for the replacement. My friend, on the other hand, wants to order another Pestaway because she finds it effective for driving away pests like rats, mosquitoes, and other insects."

Import substitution

Al Jose Leonidas shares this tip with consumers. If you have an electronic insect killer (Electronico Mata Insectos) whose imported bulb has stopped working, you can buy an inexpensive substitute at the local hardware.

In his experience, the ordinary colored bulb of 5 to 10 watts was a good substitute for the costly imported violet bulb. It had the same socket size as the original bulb. "It works! The electronic insect killer is effective against small winged household pests like flies and mosquitoes," Leonidas claimed. He added that for cleaning the device, ordinary paintbrush should be used.

But he advised that electronic devices should be kept away from the reach of children.

Power saver may cause fire

Nestor Puangco of NFA shares the following experience to warn consumers that power savers can overheat and cause fire. He wrote: "I purchased from Metro TV three power savers that were supposed to cut down power consumption and reduce the electric bill... These were installed at the outlets for the water pump, TV/VCR and water heater.

"While we were away for the holidays, our neighbors saw thick smoke coming from our house. They forced their way inside the house and discovered in the nick of time that the power saver of my water pump was almost blown up and it was melted. It must have generated quite a heat because the outlet was almost black and smelled like burnt fuse.

"Of course, I reported this to the importer-supplier as soon as I got back to Manila." For more detail, e-mail Puangco at nup@nfa.gov.ph

Consumer letters

Grace Fajarito of Santa Rita, Pampanga wrote: "We are happy that we now have ShoeMart here in Pampanga, and Robinsons is about to open. I suggest to SM management to add a diaper-changing section, preferably near the department store area. This will be a big help to mothers, like me, who find it very inconvenient to change our babies' diapers and clothes in the malls."

Lilet Mancao received from the Makati Central Post Office a registry notice for a package from the United States. When her representative claimed the package, she was asked to pay P1,100 in tax. It was reduced to P968 when she complained.

"Why am I taxed arbitrarily for the gifts? The package mailed to Makati PO contained six new CDs, two small stuffed dolls and two hotel souvenir pens, all valued by sender at $65. The same sender also mailed a package to Cebu, but I was not asked by the local post office to pay any tax. The box contained six CDs, two boxes of jewelry items and two T-shirts."

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

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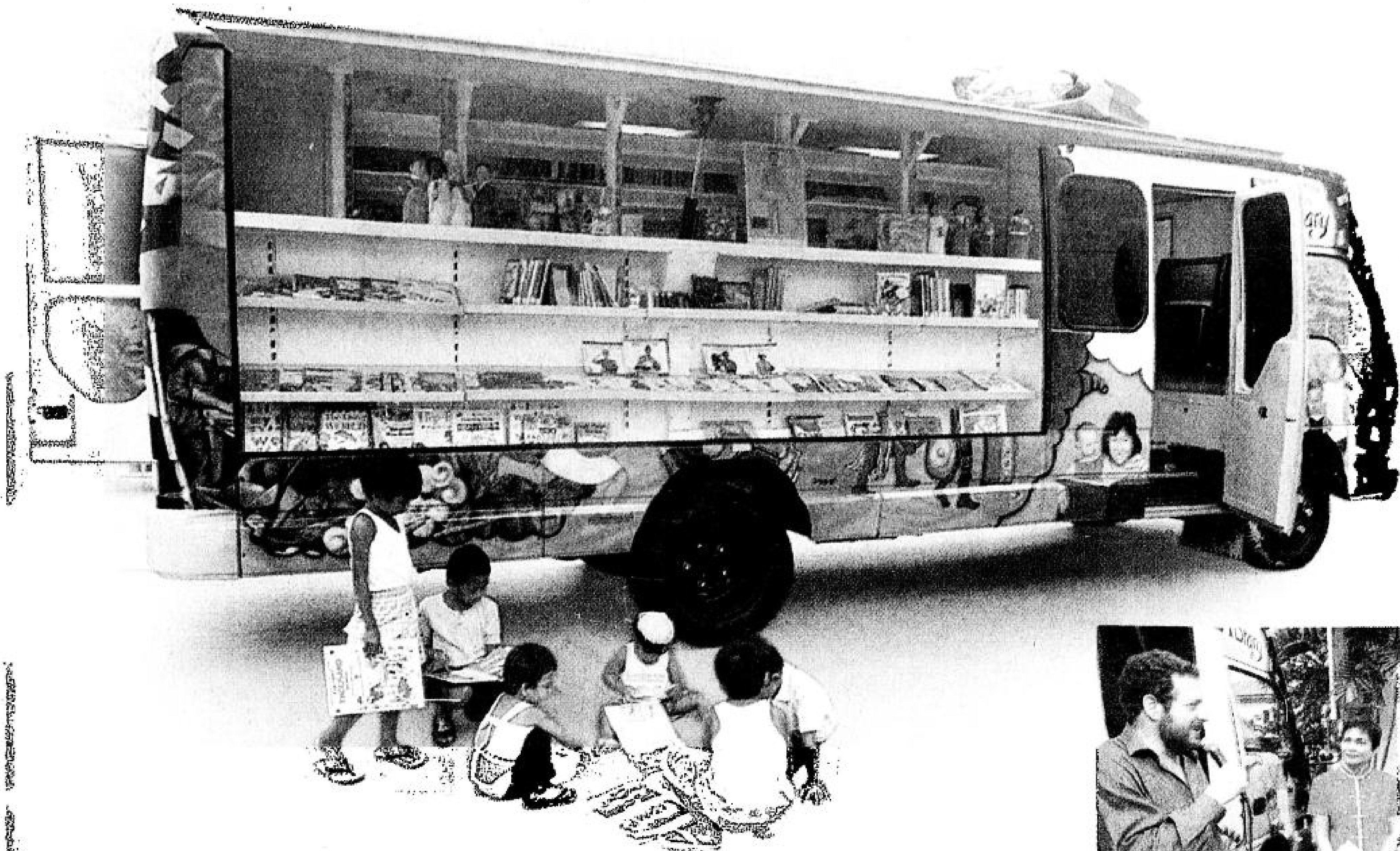

A colorful van visits five depressed communities a week to lend books and hold storytelling sessions with the help of volunteers

A library on wheels driven by Museo Pambata

DAVID Chiel of The Ford Foundation gives a talk during the launch of Museo Pambata's mobile library while Nina Lim-Yuson, Sr. Mary Pilar Verzosa and Estefania Aldaba-Lim look on.

(From page C1)

were handed over to barangays in Tondo, Paco and Pandacan and the Valeriano Fugoso Community Library.

The ABS-CBN Foundation, Adarna Book Services, Anvil Publishing, Bookmark Inc., Elena Tan Foundation, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Embassies of Australia, Austria, India and Peru, Felta Inc., Filway Marketing, Giraffe Books, Goodwill Bookstore, Lampara Books, OMF Literature and Tahanan Books have donated books and learning aids.

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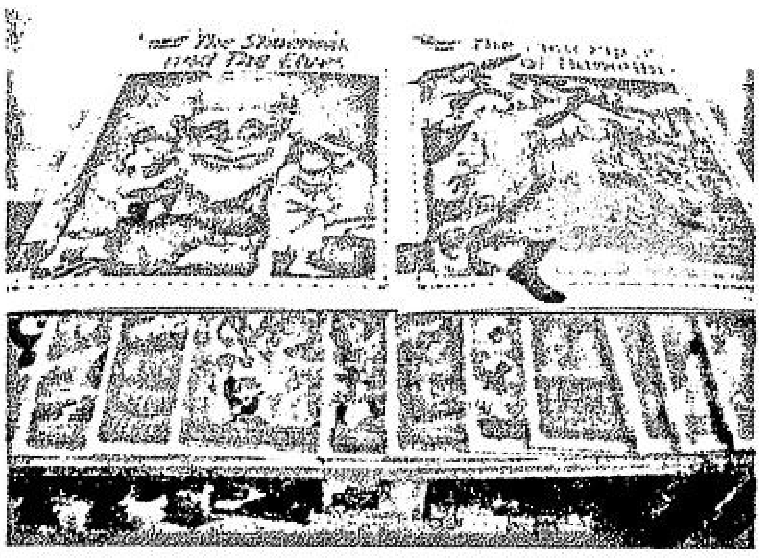

TALES and legends from abroad are within the local kids' reach.

The sun always shines on reading

A literacy campaign sets its sights on bigger things and more remote schools

Photos by Johnny Villena

A RIVER runs through it, but now there's even more to rave about in Marikina with the program "Sa Aklat Sisikat," which was launched at the Calumpang Elementary School on a recent sunny morning.

The passions of Lizzie Zobel, Margarita Delgado and friends first fired the literacy campaign in 1999. That year, they took it to 10 elementary schools—all in the forgotten city of Manila.

When they found out that poor eyesight was an impediment to the success of the program, they jumpstarted a related project with the Department of Health and volunteer physicians called "My Eyes Can See." Not the types to be content with distributing eyeglasses to students to enable them to read, they ended the "Sa Aklat Sisikat" campaign with a big contest among the participating schools' best readers.

After that, Zobel, Delgado and associates took time off to fine-tune their campaign and formally unite into a foundation.

The good news is that they are back with a vengeance and have hit the suburbs. Marikina is their first host city outside of Manila, and if you've guessed that it has something to do with the city's new "go get and wow 'em" woman mayor, Marides C. Fernando, you've just won the jackpot.

The students, teachers and staff of Calumpang Elementary School welcomed the foundation officers and volunteers as well as city officials and representatives from the Department of Education and Culture with a short presentation. The launch ended with flying doves, balloons and fireworks, Marikina being a city enamored with the idea of starting everything with a bang. Hopefully, from now on, not only a river but also passion for reading and learning will run through the valley. *CBF*

Sa Aklat Sisikat!

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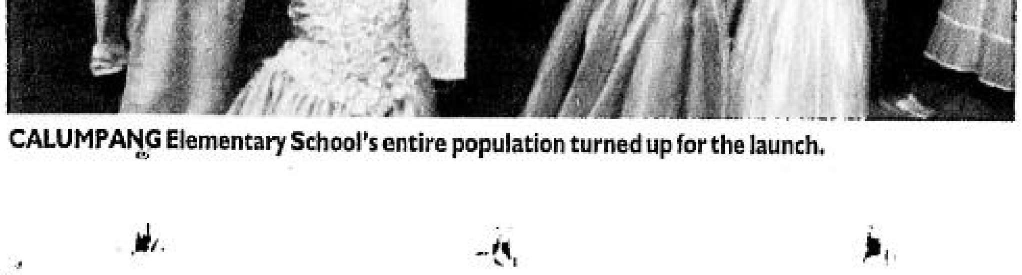
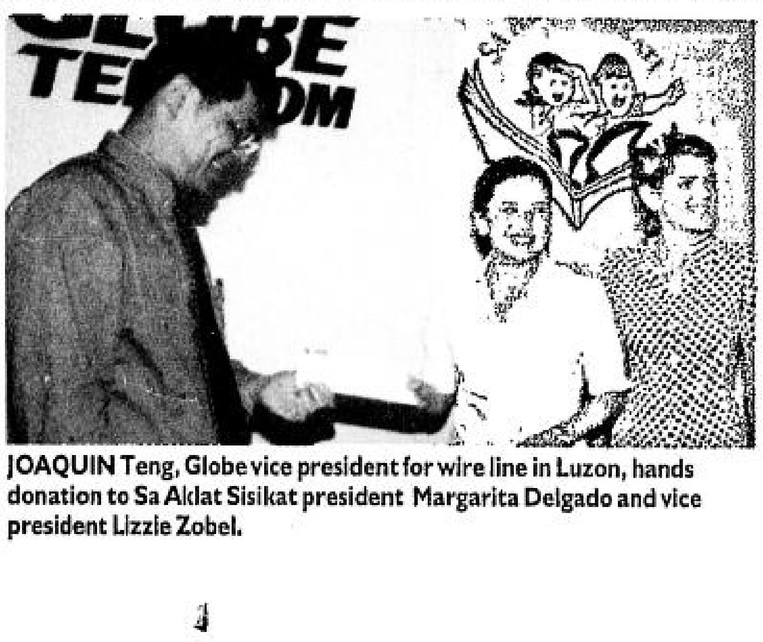
Launching...
READING
SA AKLAT SISIKAT
LITERACY PROGRAM
JANUARY

SOARING literacy rate is one of the goals of the "Sa Aklat Sisikat" program.



CALUMPANG Elementary School's entire population turned up for the launch.



JOAQUIN Teng, Globe vice president for wire line in Luzon, hands donation to Sa Aklat Sisikat president Margarita Delgado and vice president Lizzie Zobel.

MOTASSIM al Mashouk, president of Petron Corporation, partner foundation of SAS, meets Marikina Mayor Marides C. Fernando

Look, Ma, they're talking about sex

By Alex Y. Vergara

Surprise, surprise—teens want more parental control and guidance, according to UP study on sexuality

TWO years into the new millennium, most Filipino parents remain clueless on how to best deal with their adolescent children in matters relating to sexuality. And we thought parents by now would be more responsive, having gone through similar experiences in their time!

"It's not their fault if today's youth continues to grapple with similar concerns their parents had during their time," says Maria Carmen Jimenez, a clinical psychologist and executive director of the University of the Philippines' Center for Integrative and Development Studies. "It only goes to show the failure of programs that have been implemented to address these problems."

Jimenez and colleagues Maria Cecilia Conaco and Cherrie Joy Billedo recently revealed the findings of a qualitative study they conducted on the beliefs, attitudes, perceptions and behavior of young people on such areas as identity, sexuality and health. The study was funded through the efforts of the Philippine Center for Population and Development.

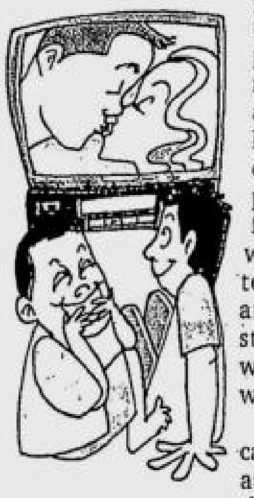
It involved 89 Filipino respondents representing a cross section of society. Respondents were almost equally divided into male and female and grouped into two age categories: 13-16 and 17-21.

In their study, said to be the first of its kind using the qualitative approach, Jimenez and company relied on a series of key informant interviews and focus group discussions, in the hope of getting more in-depth insights from respondents.

Although the findings may be considered old hat, the study still bears some looking into, if only to challenge us to find new and better ways to address such recurrent concerns.

Closer to mother

As a whole, says the study, the children described their relationships with their parents as "all right." Most respondents, however, especially the females, were closer to the mother. They shared daily activities and experiences with her, though not the more personal and intimate ones, presumably including sex. Mothers were considered generally supportive compared to fathers. Relationships with fathers were said to be more complex and sometimes strained, particularly with sons, especially with gay sons.



Male respondents became curious about sex at an earlier age than the girls. While most girls were nearly oblivious about sex and its implications during the preteen years, most boys already had an idea of what sex was—though not necessarily its implications—as early as age 10 or 11.

Most young respondents relied on pornographic magazines, videotapes and websites to satisfy their curious minds and temporarily assuage their raging hormones.

Sexual activity, especially among the older group, was considered generally acceptable and natural in a relationship. This would probably be surprising if asked a generation or two ago.

Although sex has become more prevalent, use of contraceptives remains unpopular among today's youth for various unstated reasons. If the guys used a condom, for example, it would more likely be with a casual partner or commercial sex worker. Why so? Contraception was perceived to be the concern of the female because of the threat of pregnancy.

Oddly enough, the Church's influence didn't figure prominently in the study—well, at least not among the heterosexuals. "Gays voiced some concerns about the Church's stand on homosexuality," says Jimenez. "Some have chosen to stop practicing their faith until such time they have resolved these conflicts."

Interestingly, says anthropologist Carolyn Sobritcchea, director of UP's Center for Women's Studies, similar studies among youths in predominantly Buddhist countries such as Thailand and Japan have yielded results that mirror their brand of spirituality: engaging in premarital sex won't necessarily incur God's wrath. "Young people generally have no hangups when it comes to sex and their religion. Whether this is good or bad is another matter."

No confidantes

What about sex education classes in school? Many considered them forgettable and in some instances provided "unrealistic approaches." While they ached to confide in others regarding certain questions and doubts, the study continues, respondents, more often than not, were unable to find such a confidante. Respondents relegated guidance counselors and teachers to purely academic concerns. They were considered ineffective and untrustworthy when it came to the subject of the birds and the bees.

Thus, information on sex was mostly obtained from friends and through reading—both of which expectedly failed to provide thorough answers. Again, gay respondents (a tiny fraction of the study) complained about the heterosexual approach taken in sex education classes and lamented the lack of accurate information regarding homosexuality, as well as appropriate role models.

However, respondents lumped these very same friends with parents, schoolwork, financial difficulties and their respective objects of affection as the most common "stressors" in their young lives. Some even went as far as to include self-destructive behavior and identity crisis.

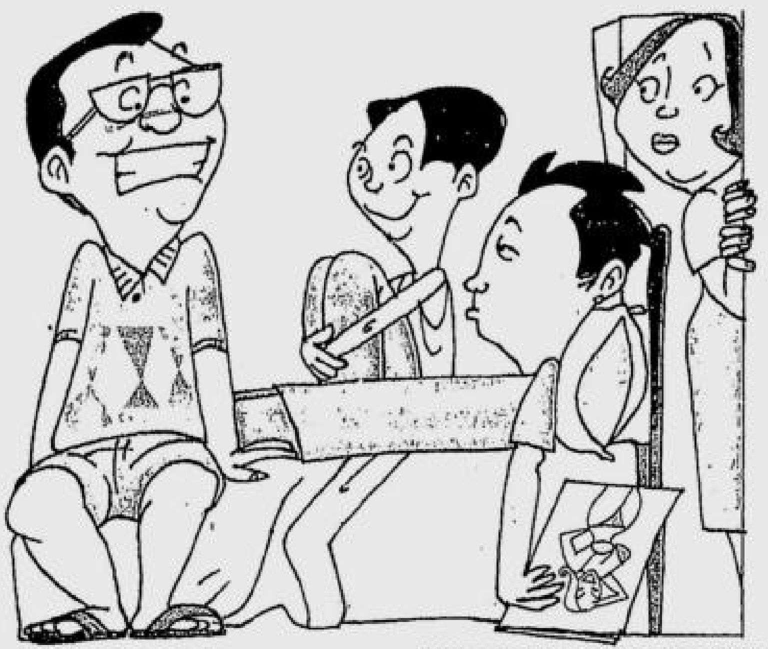
Yet, all's not lost.

"Surprisingly," says Conaco, also a clinical psychologist and professor at the UP psychology department, "respondents wanted more parental control and guidance."

All save for one respondent, the study says, mentioned having rules in their families, which were usually set and implemented by the mother. Rules set by the father were usually more inflexible and non-negotiable. All accepted these rules and agreed they were reasonable. The lone respondent who claimed to live without any rules sounded upset at this auto-pilot arrangement, blaming his mother's lack of concern for his current woes.

One of the study's findings also states: "Respondents generally wished for a better relationship with their parents and the opportunity for sharing questions, doubts and confidences. All expressed the importance of family." Good news, indeed, for parents who are up to the task.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



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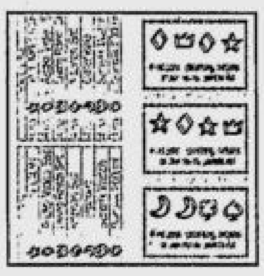
2) Carefully cut open the empty Sunsilk sachet along dotted line.

3) Tignan ang boxes sa loob ng sachet. Ang bawat box ay may 4 na simbolo sa loob.
4) Kung ang 4 na simbolo sa loob ng ISANG box ay pare-pareho, you instantly win a prize!



5) Tignan sa prize grid ang napanalunan.

PRICE GRID
4 na ☆ = ₱ 1 MILLION tax free
4 na ◇ = Audio-Video Set
4 na ♔ = Living Room Set
4 na ♤ = Kitchen Set
4 na ☽ = Cellphone
4 na ♡ = Sunsilk Watch
4 na ♧ = Sunsilk 200 ml

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE
For winners of Sunsilk 200ml bottle

a) Pumunta sa mga suking tindahang redemption center.
b) Ibigay ang winning Sunsilk sachet at i-claim ang iyong 200ml bottle.

To find the redemption center nearest you, tumawag ng libre sa Sunsilk FREE hotline 1-800-10-5643333 kahit saan sa Pilipinas or just 5643333 if you're in Manila.

For winners of Audio-Video Set, Living Room Set, Kitchen Set, Cellphone or Sunsilk Watch

a) Pumunta sa pinakamalapit na LBC outlet.
b) Ilagay ang signature sa likod ng sachet at i-submit ito for verification.
c) Itago ang kapalit na VOUCHER na ibibigay sa iyo at huwag ito iwala.
d) Pag-naverify na ang iyong winning sachet, ang prize ay ide-deliver sa iyo within two(2) weeks.
e) Ibalik ang VOUCHER sa LBC pagnadeliver ang prize mo.

To find the LBC outlet nearest you, tumawag ng libre sa Sunsilk Free Hotline 1-800-10-5643333 kahit saan sa Pilipinas or just 5643333 if you're in Manila.

For winner of 1 Million Pesos

a) Itago ang winning Sunsilk sachet.
b) Tumawag sa Sunsilk Hotline (1-800-10-5643333) para malaman kung paano i-verify kung nanalo ka.
c) Upon verification, magkakaroon ng P1,000,000. awarding ceremony sa Manila (all expense paid).

OTHER IMPORTANT RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) To claim your prize, you must
   - Present the complete winning Sunsilk sachet
   - Present valid ID (i.e., company or school ID, driver's license, passport)
   - Sign at the back of the sachet
2) Only packs with authenticated security codes will be honored.
3) Any package or game row that is defaced, mutilated, tampered with, forged, reproduced, incomplete (at least 75% of text must be readable), altered in any way, contains printing errors, cut in sealing process, unreadable security code or was not received through legitimate channels, is automatically null and void.
4) Prizes not claimed within 60 days after end of promo period shall be forfeited upon prior approval from BFAD.
5) In case of disputes, the organizers' decision, in concurrence with BFAD, is deemed final.
6) All employees of Unilever Philippines, Brand Loyalty Ltd., J. Walter Thompson, Unilever suppliers and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
7) Promo runs from January 1, 2002 to February 15, 2002.

For any questions, tumawag ng libre sa Sunsilk FREE hotline at 1-800-10-5643333 kahit saan sa Pilipinas or just 5643333 if you're in Manila.

Your instant success will be delivered by: TEAM LBC HARI NG PADALA!

SUNSILK
NUTRIENT SHAMPOO

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0615, Series of 2001.

TRAVEL

Rosario A. Garcellano, Editor

ALL the pretty gewgaws at the trading post

OPEN buggy for the blessedly single

Admirably Amish

By Maida C. Pineda

THERE is something unusual in the county of Lancaster in Pennsylvania. Taking the scenic country roads means passing through the towns of Bird in Hand and Intercourse, and, further, Fertility and Paradise. Beyond the mischief in the names of their towns, Lancaster County is home to the Amish, the Mennonites and the Brethren, three groups of German Anabaptists who fled persecution in Deutschland and sought freedom in this rolling countryside.

The Amish may have escaped censorship, but their idyllic lifestyle amidst sprawling farmland, grazing cows, barns and clotheslines have not escaped the attention of modern society. A lifestyle so different from the urban technologically dependent society stirs curiosity and brings in busloads of tourists from everywhere.

The plainclothes people are called "Pennsylvania Dutch," in reference to their German background. About 16,000-18,000 Old Order Amish live in Lancaster County. They have their roots in the Mennonite Community.

Both the Amish and the Mennonites were part of the early Anabaptist movement in Europe, which took place at the time of the Reformation. The Anabaptists believed that only adults who had confessed their faith should be baptized, and that they should be separate from larger society. Many early Anabaptists were put to death because both Catholic and Protestants charged them with heresy, and many others fled to the mountains of Switzerland and southern Germany.

Thus began the Amish tradition of farming and holding worship services in homes rather than in churches. In 1693, a Swiss bishop named Jacob Amman broke from the Mennonite church. His followers were called Amish.

Although the two groups have split several times, the Amish and Mennonite Churches still share the same beliefs concerning baptism, nonresistance and basic Bible doctrines. They differ in matters of dress, technology, language, form of worship and interpretation of the Bible.

DOWN-HOME: laundry line

The Amish and the Mennonites both settled in Pennsylvania as part of William Penn's "holy experiment" of religious tolerance. The first sizable group of Amish arrived in the United States in the 1720s and 1730s. Almost three centuries later, the Amish have managed to stick to their simple ways despite an ever-changing American society.

Having visited Lancaster many times in my life, my appreciation of the Amish has changed through the years. When I was a child, they appeared similar to my Holly Hobbie dolls or the characters in the TV show, "The Little House in the Prairie." As a teen, I studied their nonconformist lifestyle in my anthropology classes at Smith College. Now, as an adult grappling with material concerns, I often envy their simple uncluttered lifestyle. I admit a dependence on cell phones, computers, fax machines and other modern-day technology. But when these break down and I feel totally helpless, I wish I had never learned this maddening dependence, just like the Amish.

Hello again

Visiting Lancaster again during my recent vacation in the United States, I was once more touched by the lives of the Amish. I now better appreciated their history and lifestyle as I took a walking tour of a simulated Amish village. Their conscious effort to forego modern conveniences is laudable. While they could easily have electricity installed in their homes, they choose not to. That means no TV, radio, computers, or fax machines.

Propane gas can heat up their homes, provide light, get their burners going for cooking and even power their basic washing machine contraption. Even curtains are a no-no, as they deem these a luxury too frivolous for them. A simple green shade can be installed to keep the heat away, but then again this is considered quite unnecessary.

The Amish have wisely chosen to carefully examine technology before they accept it. If a new idea or gadget does not assist them in keeping their lives simple and their families together, they probably will reject using it at all.

While they may ride cars or buses if they have to, they cannot own or operate vehicles. Their horse and buggy will do just fine. An open buggy is for the unmarried, while a covered one is for married couples and their families.

Deciding what to wear is never a problem as they have few options. Their clothes are in plain blue, violet or red, with a plain black apron for married women and a white one for the singles. Even brides wear the same outfit for their wedding day, but they can choose a favorite from among the usual colors.

Hair? Once a man is married, he stops shaving and grows a beard. Women never cut their hair. They simply part it in the middle and put it up in a bun.

Generally, the men tend farms without the aid of modern equipment, and the women make jams, quilts or crafts for sale to tourists. As responsible law-abiding citizens of America, they pay taxes. But they do not invest in that necessity in American society—insurance. Instead, they rely on the community when an emergency arises.

When a family needs money for medicines, a house burned down, or any financial concern, the entire community gets together to help. They have a benefit cookout/sale featuring their traditional food, and all the proceeds go to the family in need. On the day of my visit, little children, young women, mothers, fathers, and even the elders were gathered to help cook and sell at a cookout for the benefit of one of their neighbors.

Many Amish have religious objections to being photographed. Respecting their wishes, I settled for a postcard, but I wondered whether these were real Amish or mere talents asked to pose for the camera.

ONE-ROOM schoolhouse

The food was lovely: fried chicken, warm bread, buttered noodles, and the to-die-for Shoo-fly Pie

Nonetheless, the postcard captured the clothing and the feeling of being in Pennsylvania Dutch Country.

Family-style

While the atypical lifestyle of the Amish brings in a lot of tourists to one of the most visited places in Pennsylvania, other out-of-towners come for other reasons—eating and shopping.

I admit to having visited Lancaster for these lame reasons. My most vivid recollection of the county as a child is eating in a family-style restaurant and stuffing myself full. There are a few such restaurants known for the Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine—mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, homemade bread, applesauce, ham, fried chicken, and meatloaf.

Good N Plenty is our family's favorite. With waiting time of half an hour and the many buses in the parking lot, it appears to be a favorite of many tourists as well. The food is just comforting, and our co-diners who have tried the competition swear this is the best!

The dining experience usually begins after a long wait for a table amidst Amish crafts, books and souvenirs. The wait builds up the appetite for the eat-all-you-can spread placed right on your table.

When your group is finally called, you are assigned a table with 12 or so strangers. The waitress immediately asks where everyone is from to make everyone at the table feel comfortable, and to get the conversations started. Then she brings in warm bread along with cottage cheese, apple butter and whipped butter. The bowls of food are passed around to ensure that each one gets a helping. An empty bowl or plate is quickly replenished.

During the meal, making friends and lovely conversation with a couple from Baltimore, Maryland, happened somewhere between passing the bread and the applesauce. It made the eating even more enjoyable. With every bite, we compared notes on which dishes were worth seconds. We all agreed it was the home-style fried chicken (crisp outside, juicy inside) and the buttered noodles. The corn—which did not look like the usual bright, sun-colored kernels—was darker, but much sweeter to our liking. The "bottomless" lemonade was lightly sweetened and not tart like the commercial brands.

A fellow diner reminded us to leave space for the Cracker Pudding for dessert. With an equally enticing dessert spread, the advice was good. There was the rich Shoo-fly Pie, a traditional Amish pie made with molasses. (It does not spoil easily but its sweetness attracts droves of flies—hence the name.) Apple pie, ice cream and gelatin are American standards, but these still tasted very good at Good N Plenty. The Cracker Pudding looked like an unappetizing white blob, but it was a pleasantly good mix of crushed crackers, desiccated coconut and condensed milk.

Our clothes tightened and our bodies seemed to have expanded as we reached the end of our decadent meal. We ended with coffee to douse any desire for an afternoon nap. (Hot tea may have been more apt in settling our overstuffed stomachs.)

We bid our new friends goodbye and slowly walked to the car.

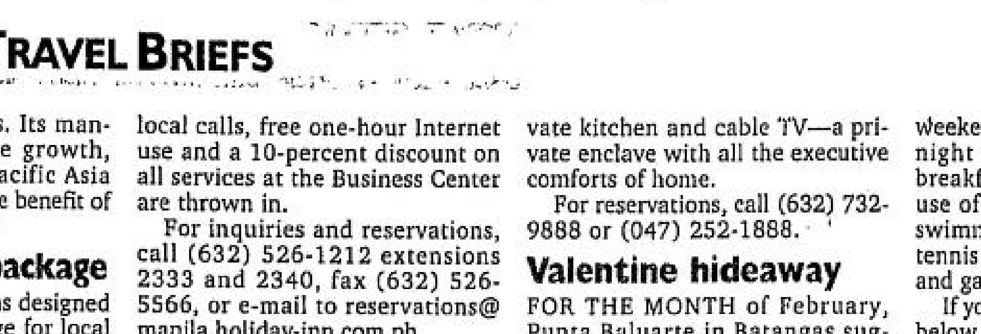
Shopping

Our last activity was shopping.

Many tourists make the trip to Lancaster to shop, and some spend days doing it. They may buy a few crafts and specialties from the Amish, but the bulk of their purchases are usually worldly possessions from the bargains at the outlet malls. With an abundance of outlets, all the lessons learned from the simple lives of the Amish are soon forgotten. It is time to part with hard-earned dollars and reconnect with The Gap, Nine West, Ann Taylor and Banana Republic.

As I returned home with my shopping bags and very tired feet, I again wished I were Amish. Their lives may seem more complicated, consciously shunning as they do the new material world, but without the concerns most of us have, I think they are truly richer!

They have simpler desires, fewer needs, closer family and community relations, and a deeper devotion to God.



BOY'S room minus the clutter; wardrobe in plain (but classic) black

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TRAVEL BRIEFS

Gordon's Pata

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon has been elected chair of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (Pata), Asia's recognized authority on travel and tourism, for the period April 2003-April 2004

Pata chief executive Peter de Jong has informed Gordon that he was elected unanimously by the group's board of directors at its Jan. 20 meeting in Kuching, Malaysia. The Philippines' tourism attaché for Singapore, Phineas Alburo, represented Gordon at the meeting.

De Jong said Pata had "huge respect" for Gordon as "one of the most effective tourism leaders in the region today."

"My family and my country are honored that Asia's tourism leaders trusted me to lead Pata," Gordon said in a statement. "I hope we can all work together as a cohesive team to be able to improve and develop Asia's tourism products that will benefit not just a few but all sectors of our society."

Composed of 41 national government members, 48 state and local bodies, and airlines and cruise lines, Pata has long advocated balancing growth with responsible conservation measures. Its mandate is to enhance the growth, value and quality of Pacific Asia travel and tourism for the benefit of its members.

Business value package

HOLIDAY Inn Manila has designed a business value package for local and foreign business travelers for $80 net on single or double occupancy.

The package, which is available until May 31, includes deluxe room accommodation with buffet breakfast, a welcome fruit basket, free pressing of one suit per day and one-way airport car transfer. Free local calls, free one-hour Internet use and a 10-percent discount on all services at the Business Center are thrown in.

For inquiries and reservations, call (632) 526-1212 extensions 2333 and 2340, fax (632) 526-5566, or e-mail to reservations@manila.holiday-inn.com.ph.

Suite life

TRAVELERS in Subic on a holiday or a business conference are invited to check out Legenda Suites in Upper Cubi.

Each of the hotel's one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites comes with a living room, dining area, private kitchen and cable TV—a private enclave with all the executive comforts of home.

For reservations, call (632) 732-9888 or (047) 252-1888.

Valentine hideaway

FOR THE MONTH of February, Punta Baluarte in Batangas suggests a romantic overnight stay with the love of your life.

Couples may indulge in nature tripping including swimming and other outdoor sports. Or they may simply laze around.

The package is available for P1,500 for two persons on weekdays and P2,750 for two persons on weekends. The cost includes overnight accommodation with free breakfast for two, complimentary use of fresh-water and salt-water swimming pools, one-hour use of tennis court or horseback facilities and game room.

If you want to take the kids, those below 12 years old get free accommodations.

For group reservations or out-of-town corporate meetings, audiovisual equipment and other support facilities are available.

For inquiries and reservations, visit the resort's Makati office at the 5th floor of the Enzo Bldg., or call 899-4546 or 899-4550.

500 Sto. Niño images on display at PNB

THE 23RD anniversary celebration of the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus opened formally on Jan. 24 at the PNB Banking Hall Financial Center, Pasay City.

As part of the celebration, 500 images of the Child Jesus are on view at the Banking Hall. The exhibit is open to the public from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. A Novena Mass is held at 7 p.m. every day until Feb. 2.

On Feb. 3, a grand procession of 500 *carrozas* will be held starting at 3 p.m. at the Philtrade Square, passing through Roxas Boulevard and going to the Luneta Grandstand.

A low Mass will be celebrated and an *ati-atihan* contest will highlight the Sto. Niño Fiesta sponsored by Metrobank president Tony Abacan and Howard Belton of Unilever. Festivities will end with a fireworks display organized by the Tengco family.

The formal opening of this year's celebration was attended by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Pasay City Mayor Pee Wee Trinidad, Pasig Mayor Soledad Eusebio, PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr., the *hermanas* and *hermanos* headed by Oscar and Bootsie Violago, Louie and Mellie Ablaza, Sen. Robert Barbers, Evelyn Castro, Pepay Campos, Antonette Aguinaldo, Ricardo and Linda Alindogan, Chita Chen, Norma Chan, Fe de Guia, Rosie Francisco, George Go, Vicky Garcia, Justo Justo, Vicky Magadia, Belen Ticson-Martel, Ophelia Clemente, Marietta Paredes, Ms Pe, Mr. and Ms Jose Ponce Reyes, Johnny and Carol Rogge, Mely Rojas, Chichi Salas, Paulino Tan, Allan Tengco, Hommer and Carmina Alimusin.

When Harry met Y.S.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Harry and I became classmates in medical school last year and became close when we joined the same *barkada*. He told me that if he didn't already have a girlfriend in the province, he would court me. His girlfriend, Tina, is studying for her master's degree.

Some months ago, he went to his province and upon his return told me that he had broken up with her. He said I was part of the reason (although it was) primarily because he concluded that their relationship wouldn't work. But he and Tina have not completely cut ties. I've seen their text messages and they still say "I love you" to each other. There were times, too, when he'd call me by her name. He said that whoever was with him when he passed the medical board this year, then that girl would be his lifetime partner.

I love him a lot, and he knows that. We've talked a lot, we've kissed and we've even necked once. But no one in our *barkada* knows the real score between us. I would not make it public because he is obviously still in love with Tina.

I have pledged to commit myself totally to my boyfriend if and when I get one and, in return, I want him to be totally committed to me. How can I make that happen with Harry?

Y.S.

Harry said he broke up with Tina primarily because he concluded that their relationship wouldn't work. Whether or not you were in the picture, he would still have broken up with her.

Since you are not the primary reason for the breakup, it also suggests that he does not necessarily find you better than Tina or that he loves you more than her.

Nostalgia for their good times, his compassion for Tina, the indecision as to who he loves more between the two of you—all these might not only prompt him to give Tina a gentle "landing" but could also make him incapable of making a clear, all-out and immediate commitment to you.

Given all that, the best approach, I think, is to allow him time and space to sort things out. You should commit yourself to him no more than you already have. You've told him you love him and you have kissed. That probably is the farthest the two of you should go.

Giving him time to sort things out would, I know, prolong your uncertainty. That approach, however, would be fair not only to him but to you as well. Achieving what's fair and lasting usually takes more effort than gratifying immediate but shortsighted needs. The alternative is for you to induce him—and he could oblige—to choose you right here and now. But how sure are you he would be true to his word for long? And if under that dubious commitment you give more of yourself to him, wouldn't you be losing much more than you have already lost?

The way to achieve an honest and lasting relationship is to allow it to mature on its own, uninduced, un-rushed.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

...And you thought the Merry Shopping Days are over?

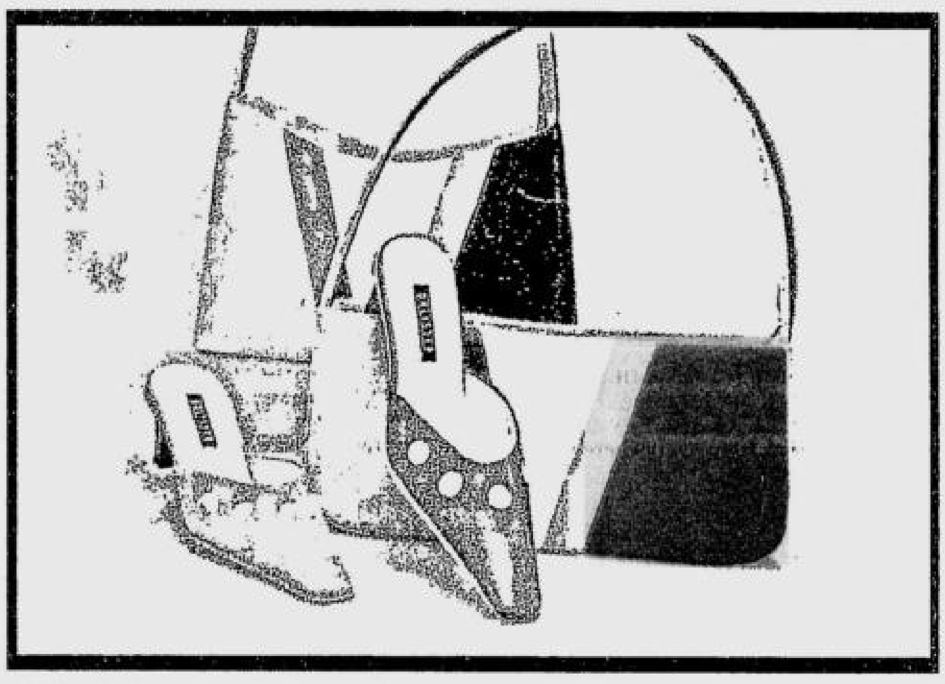
MENDREZ wants you to enjoy its extended run.

Shopaholics, Fashionistas, Men and Women of Style who are now scrimping after the holidays need not despair. Mendrez has thought of something to brighten up the new year. Great Fashion is still available at Discounted Prices.

The Mendrez Merry Shopping Sale is now on.

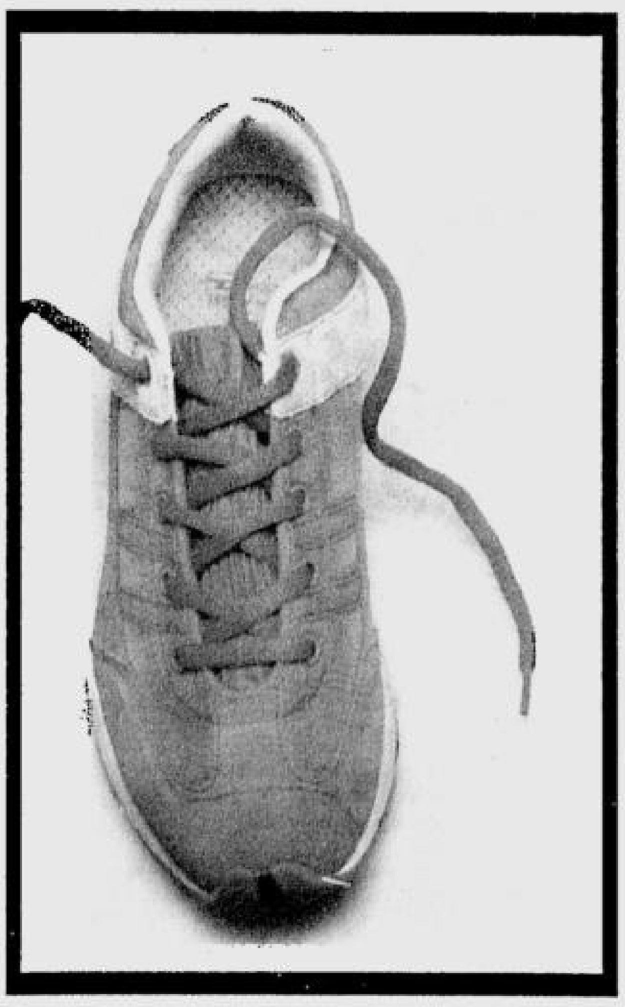
Run to Your World of Style with Great Fashion Finds only Mendrez can offer.

Sexy High-Heeled Sandals in Fashionable Combinations of Camel and Red with Matching Bags at 30% off.



The Most Fashionable colors of Red and Camel played on Pointed Pumps at 30%Off.

The Drama of Black and White on Bags and Sandals at 20% off.



The Cutting-Edge Fashion of The Diesel Footwear Line at 20% to 50% off.

Black Lustrous Leather on Square Toes in Italian Outsole to Boot at 40% off.

Ring Tones

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I LOVE TRASH* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE ILOVETRASH** • TEENY LITTLE SUPER GUY* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE LITTLEGUY** • LOST ME COOKIE AT THE DISCO* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE LOSTCOOKY**

THE MONSTER IN THE MIRROR* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE MIRROR** • ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE 1OFTHESE** • THE BATHTUB OF SEVILLE* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE SEVILLE**

12345 *CTW SESAME STREET** **TONE 123** • BIG BIRD'S LULLUBY* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE BBLULLABY** • THE BIRD IS THE WORD* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE BIRDWORD**

CAPTAIN VEGETABLE* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE CAPTVEG** • COOKIE'S DISCO* *CTW SESAME STREET* **TONE COOKYDISCO** • DANCE MYSELF TO SLEEP* *CTW SESAME STEET* **TONE DANCESLEEP**

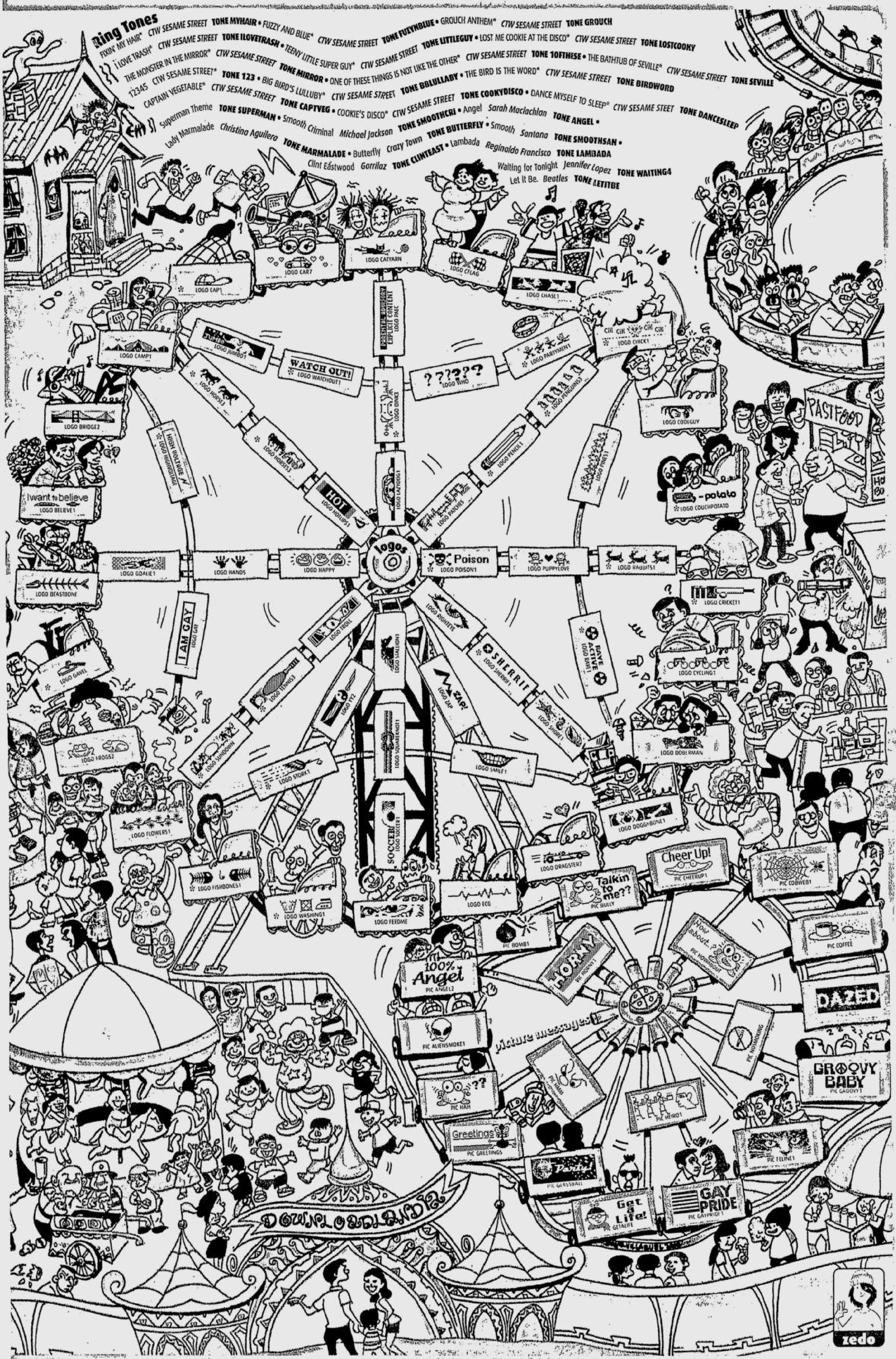
Superman Theme **TONE SUPERMAN** • Smooth Criminal *Michael Jackson* **TONE SMOOTHCRI** • Angel *Sarah Maclachlan* **TONE ANGEL** •

Lady Marmalade *Christina Aguilera* **TONE MARMALADE** • Butterfly *Crazy Town* **TONE BUTTERFLY** • Smooth *Santana* **TONE SMOOTHSAN** •

Clint Eastwood *Gorillaz* **TONE CLINTEAST** • Lambada *Reginaldo Francisco* **TONE LAMBADA**

Waiting for Tonight *Jennifer Lopez* **TONE WAITING4**

Let It Be. *Beatles* **TONE LETITBE**



LOGO CAP1
LOGO CAR7
LOGO CATYARN
LOGO CFLAG
LOGO CHASE1
LOGO CHICK1
LOGO CAMP1
LOGO JUMBO1
WATCH OUT!
LOGO WATCHOUT1
PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT
LOGO PAEC
?????
LOGO WHO
LOGO PARTYMEN1
LOGO BRIDGE2
LOGO HORSE1
LOGO HORSES
LOGO DINKS
LOGO PENGUINS3
LOGO COOLGUY
LOGO HIGHVOLTAGE
HIGH VOLTAGE
HOT
LOGO HOTLIPS
LOGO LAZYDOG1
LOGO PATCHES
LOGO PENCIL1
LOGO PINES1
PASTFOOD
I want to believe
LOGO BELIEVE1
- potato
LOGO COUCHPOTATO
logos
LOGO GOALIE1
LOGO HANDS
LOGO HAPPY
Poison
LOGO POISON1
LOGO PUPPYLOVE
LOGO RABBITS1
LOGO BEASTBONE
LOGO CRICKET1
I AM GAY
LOGO GAY
LOGO TROLL
LOGO STALLION1
LOGO RIGHTEYE
SHERRIF
LOGO SHERRIF1
RAVE ALIVE
LOGO RAVE1
SHOOTING
LOGO GAVEL
LOGO TENNIS3
LOGO YY2
ZAP!
LOGO ZAP
LOGO SHOE1
LOGO CYCLING1
LOGO SUNDOWN
LOGO SQUARTERROR1
LOGO DOBERMAN
LOGO FROGS2
LOGO STORK1
LOGO SMILE1
LOGO FLOWERS1
SOCCER!
LOGO SOCCER1
LOGO DOGGYBONE1
LOGO FISHBONES1
LOGO WASHING1
LOGO FEEDME
LOGO ECG
LOGO DRAGSTER2
Talkin to me??
PIC BULLY
Cheer Up!
PIC CHEERUP1
PIC COBWEB1
PIC BOMB1
100% Angel
PIC ANGEL2
HORNY
PIC HORNY1
How about...?
PIC HOWABOUT
PIC COFFEE
PIC ALIENSMOKE1
picture messages
DAZED
PIC NOSMOKING
GROOVY BABY
PIC GROOVY1
PIC HAH
PIC NINAN
PIC HERO1
Greetings
PIC GREETINGS
PIC FELINE1
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288 — Send to 288.
LOGO RECEIVED. — Save upon receiving logo.
TONE 123 — Type in keyword. Ex. TONE 123
288 — Send to 288.
TONE RECEIVED. — Save upon receiving ring tone.

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Bridal registry with distinction

Area Home Store instills some sanity and class in wedding gift-giving

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Johnny Villena

WHAT sets the Area Home Store apart from other shops also offering bridal registry services?

"We only keep inventory of about a dozen pieces of the larger items and around two dozen for the smaller pieces, and that's split among the three stores," says Luisa Ozamiz, manager of the flagship store at the Power Plant in Rockwell.

Thus, Area, though perhaps a little on the pricier side, carries items that are not your run-of-the-mill home décor. Majority of the items sold here were personally sourced by the owners—two of whom are in the United States and another one, a former resident of Milan, is based in London.

Area Home Store opened in September 1994; it was designed to meet the needs of the discriminating homeowner. "It was the very first home store in Manila when it opened at the Megamall in Ortigas. Much of the stuff we sold back then was in white," Ozamiz recalls.

Young, upwardly mobile couples compose the bulk of Area Home Store's clientele, perhaps because majority of them made their initial selections from the store as young brides- and grooms-to-be.

Computerized

Ozamiz suggests that engaged couples come to register at the store a month before the wedding date. "We carry limited stocks, and wedding guests normally don't shop that way in advance," she explains.

Duplication of gifts is kept to a minimum at Area. "We only have three stores and so we are small and personal enough to constantly be on top of things. The three branches (Alabang Town Center, Megamall and Power Plant Mall) update the registry on a day-to-day basis. "Once an item on the registry is bought at this store, we notify the two others right away," Ozamiz says.

The bridal registry at Area is computerized. When a guest comes in to purchase an item, a full list is printed out for the guest to study at leisure. For brides and grooms, the service is free, and they can list as many items as they wish to. The registry consultant personally assists the couple in selecting items for the registry. Among the perks are a 10 percent discount on regular items for the couple, which is valid on all cash purchases from the time of registration; and a 5 percent discount on regular items purchased by the guests on cash basis. Gifts purchased for the event are wrapped free of charge.

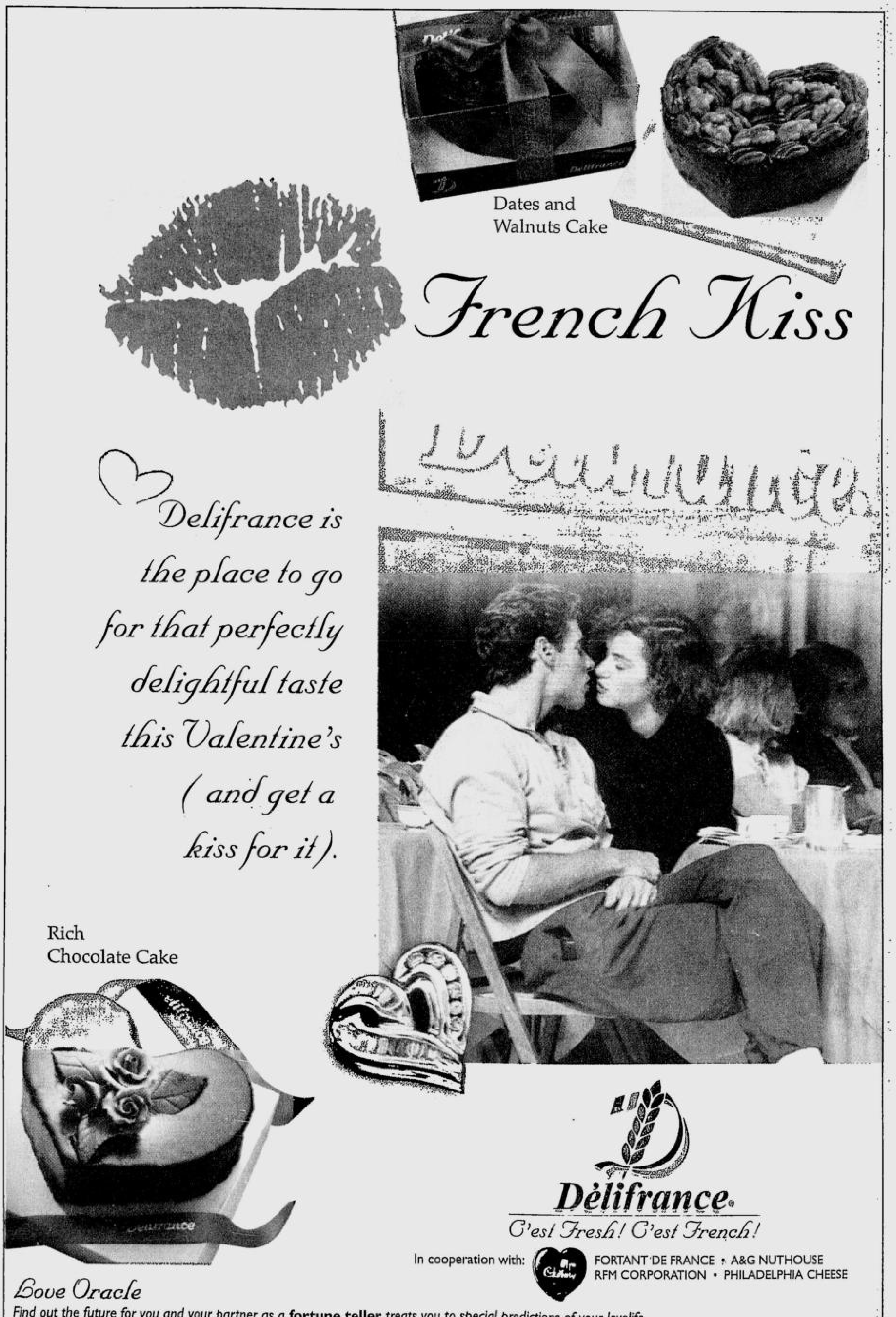
Ozamiz says they are the first to offer free delivery of gifts. "Guests can have the option of having their gifts delivered to the couple free of charge. A lot of clients take advantage of this especially if the item is big or bulky."

Gifts may also be returned for store credit or exchanges up to two months from the date of the wedding. "For example, if you receive two peppermills, you can bring back one and if it costs, say, P1,500, we will give you the corresponding store credit, minus the applicable discounts," Ozamiz explains.

Area also gives from 50-300 or more registry announcement cards free of charge.

BRIDAL/p.D2

FONDUE FOR YOU. Small roasting pan at P2,933; 16 bottle Maple spice rack at P3,841; traditional fondue set for P2,845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February 9	February 10	February 12	February 13	February 14
10 am to 2 pm	10 am to 2 pm	10 am to 2 pm	10 am to 2 pm	10 am to 2 pm
- Robinsons Galleria	- Alabang Town Center	- UN Avenue	- Greenbelt	- Rockwell's Power Plant Mall
4 pm to 9 pm	4 pm to 9 pm	4 pm to 9 pm	4 pm to 9 pm	4 pm to 9 pm
- Libis, Green Meadows	- Festival Mall, Alabang	- Robinsons Place Manila	- Greenhills Theatre Mall	- Greenhills Roosevelt

Greenbelt Mall *Paseo de Roxas* • Zeta Building *Salcedo* • Philam Tower *Paseo de Roxas* • Pacific Star *Gil Puyat* • Rockwell Center *Power Plant Mall* • Robinsons Place *Ermita* SM City Manila *Arroceros* • SM Centerpoint *Sta. Mesa* • Quintin Paredes *Binondo* • U.N. Avenue • Greenhills Theater Mall • Libis Q.C. • Robinsons Galleria *Ortigas* Starmall *Shaw blvd.* • Eastwood City Walk *Libis* • Alabang Town Center *Muntinlupa* • Festival Mall *Filinvest Alabang* • NAIA Terminal 2 *Domestic & International* SM Supercenter *Sucat* • Shell-SLT *Muntinlupa* • Greenhills *Roosevelt* • Glorietta I *Makati* • The Podium

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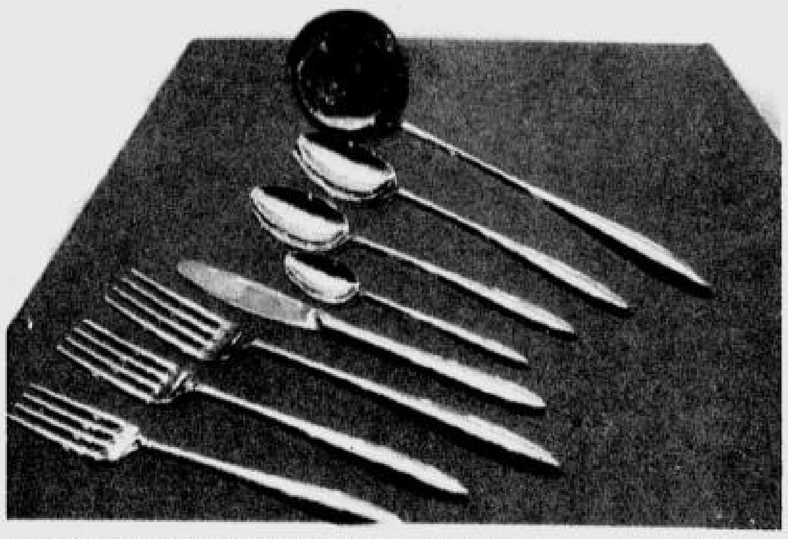


STAINLESS STEEL. Modi serving ladle at P874; serving spoons and forks at P874

Bridal registry with distinction

(From page D1)

Tips

The following should be considered when drawing up a registry list. First, says Ozamis, "Think of it as a wish list. Don't just think of today or next year, but of the future. Don't limit yourself to starter sets. Your family will grow and if you come from a large family, expect to have visitors every so often so provide for that in the list," she says.

"Think of it this way—if you could afford it, this is what you would get. If you have a table for eight persons, get a minimum of eight table settings—plates, cutlery, linen," she adds.

Making room for breakage is also important, says Ozamis. Consider the plates that could chip, cutlery that could be lost, or glasses that could break on your first year of marriage alone. For those living with parents or in-laws, these items can be stored. "There will come a point when you will want things of your own or when you will move out. At least, you already have them on hand," Ozamiz says.

The number of wedding guests should also be taken into account. "If you sent out 150 invitations, your list should have at least 75 items. On the average, at least half of your invited guests will be giving you gifts."

AREA manager Luisa Ozamiz at Power Plant

Ozamiz also encourages the couple to tell their guests where they are registered. "If you don't, chances are they will go to their favorite department store," she adds.

Consider also the color scheme of your bathroom, bedroom, living room and dining room when drawing up your registry list. Couples who have yet to build homes usually have a favorite color to base their selections on.

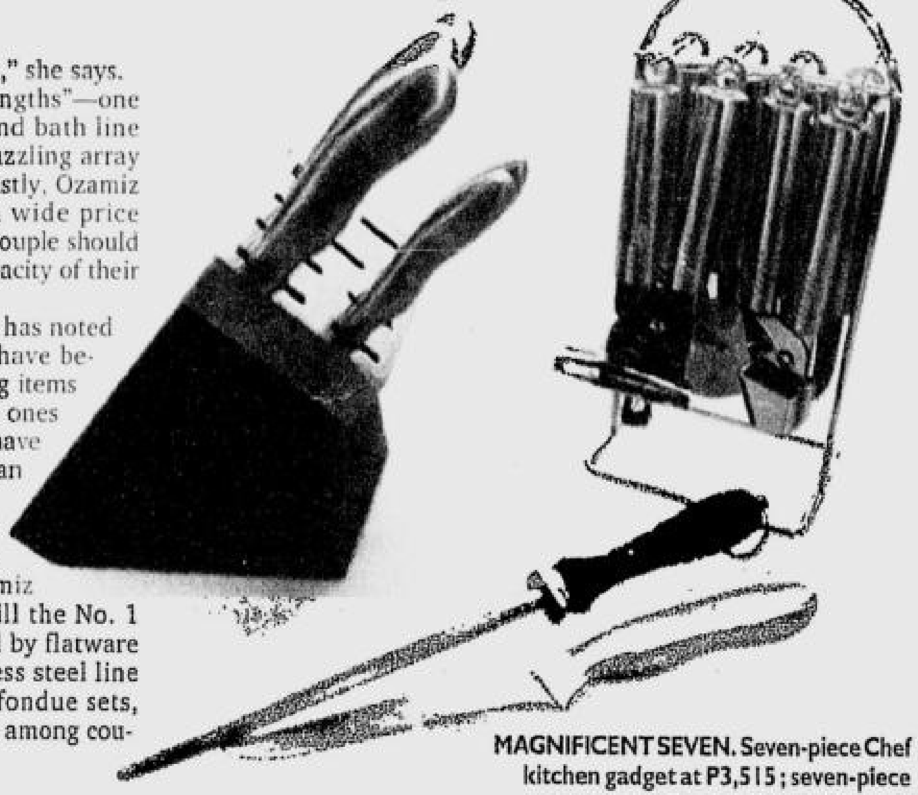
"If you are registered at two stores, bring both lists when you visit them so you can coordinate and avoid duplication," she says.

Each store has its own "strengths"—one may have an extensive bed and bath line while another might have a dazzling array of kitchen and dining items. Lastly, Ozamiz advises couples to provide a wide price range for the items chosen. "A couple should be sensitive to the spending capacity of their guests," she says.

An interesting thing Ozamiz has noted is, through the years grooms have become more involved in choosing items for the registry. "Especially the ones in their early 30s or those who have traveled a lot. Mind you, they can be picky, too," says Ozamiz.

Area Home Store's items have been known to be uncluttered, simple and stylish. Ozamiz points out that glasses are still the No. 1 items on the registry, followed by flatware (Area is popular for its stainless steel line from Italy). Peppermills and fondue sets, too, have become quite popular among couples.

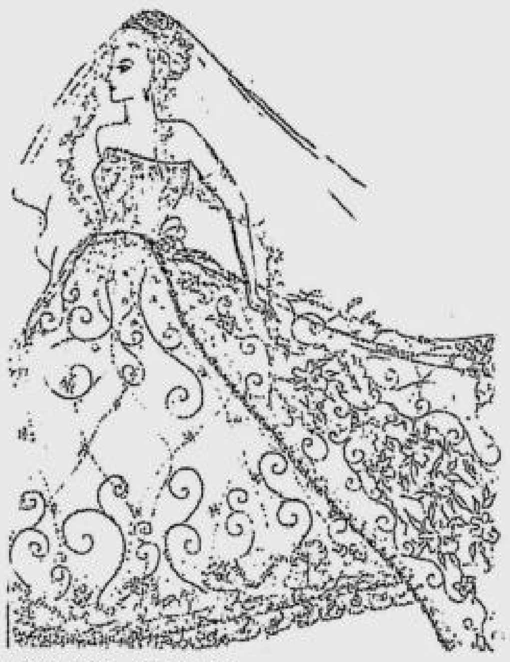
E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



MAGNIFICENT SEVEN. Seven-piece Chef kitchen gadget at P3,515; seven-piece Cutlery Block at P7,025

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



TUNAYA-BUGAY

Salvador Angeles Tunaya, son of **George Tunaya** and **Esperanza Angeles**, weds **Orchid Gonzales Bugay**, daughter of **Rafael** and **Tita Bugay**, today at the Basilica of San Sebastian. Reception follows at the Manila Grand Ballroom, Manila Hotel. The bride's gown is by **Louie Salazar**.

INOCENCIO-RIVERA

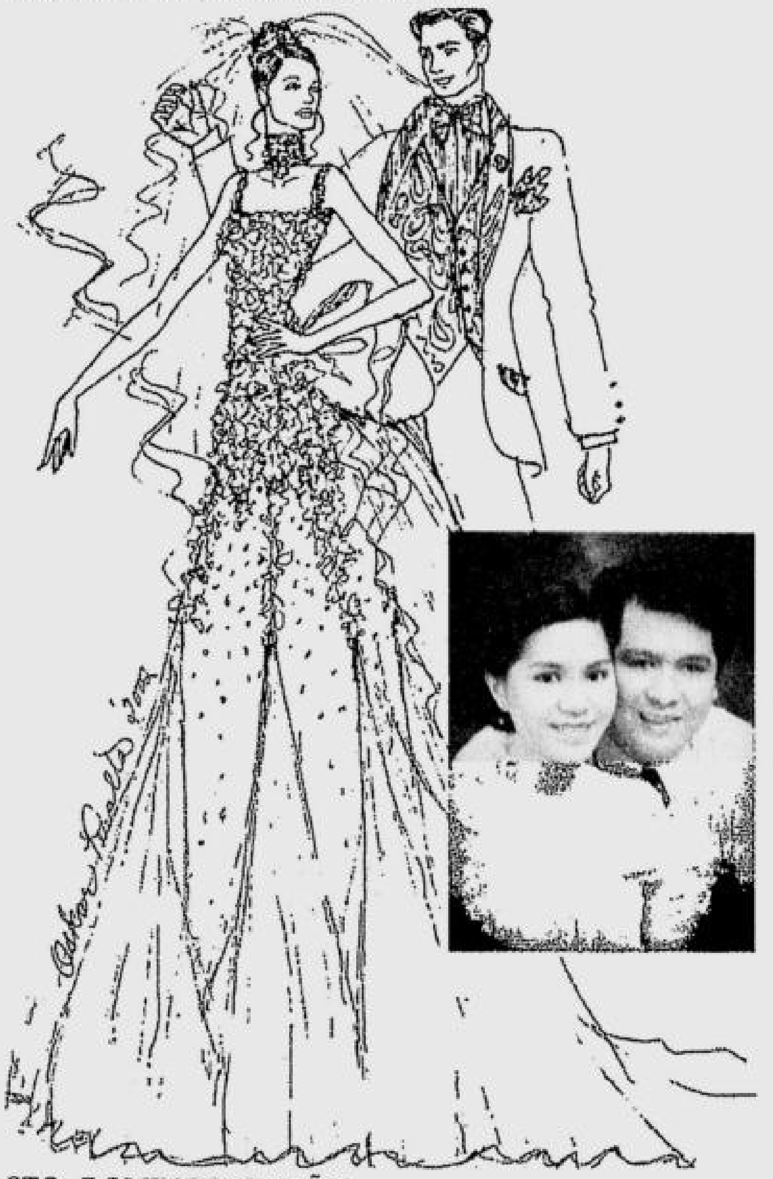
Edsel Inocencio, son of **Gavina Inocencio**, exchanged marriage vows with **Cynthia Rivera**, daughter of **Jose** and **Felomena Rivera**, on Dec. 11 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Intramuros, Manila. The bride wore a richly beaded halter-neck gown with a metallic delustered satin full skirt and cathedral-length train, designed and executed by **Gener Gozum**. A dinner reception followed at the Heritage Ballroom of the Heritage Hotel.

CASTILLO-CALUB

Roderick "Eric" Y. Castillo, son of **Rodrigo** and **Ellen Castillo**, and **Cyren "Cy" S. Calub**, daughter of the late **German** and **Herminia Calub**, exchanged marriage vows on Oct. 28 at the Sta. Rita de Cacia, Philam Homes, QC. Reception was held at the Quezon Ballroom, Sulo Hotel, QC. The bride and the entourage wore **Thet Hagape** creations.

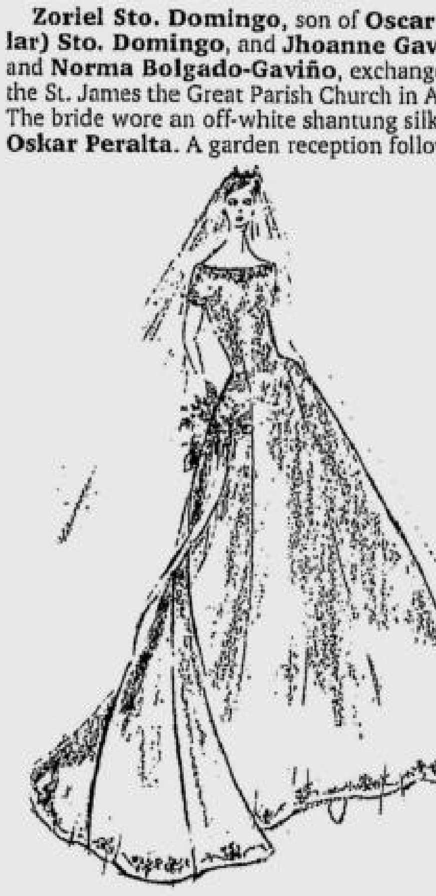
LAGUNZAD-RAMOS

Anthony Jean Lagunzad and **Maria Joan Ramos** exchanged "I dos" on Jan. 11 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Manila Cathedral), Intramuros, Manila. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Fr. **Arnel Recinto**. A romantic garden cocktail and dinner followed at the historical Casa Manila. Leggiero Strings serenaded the newlyweds and guests.



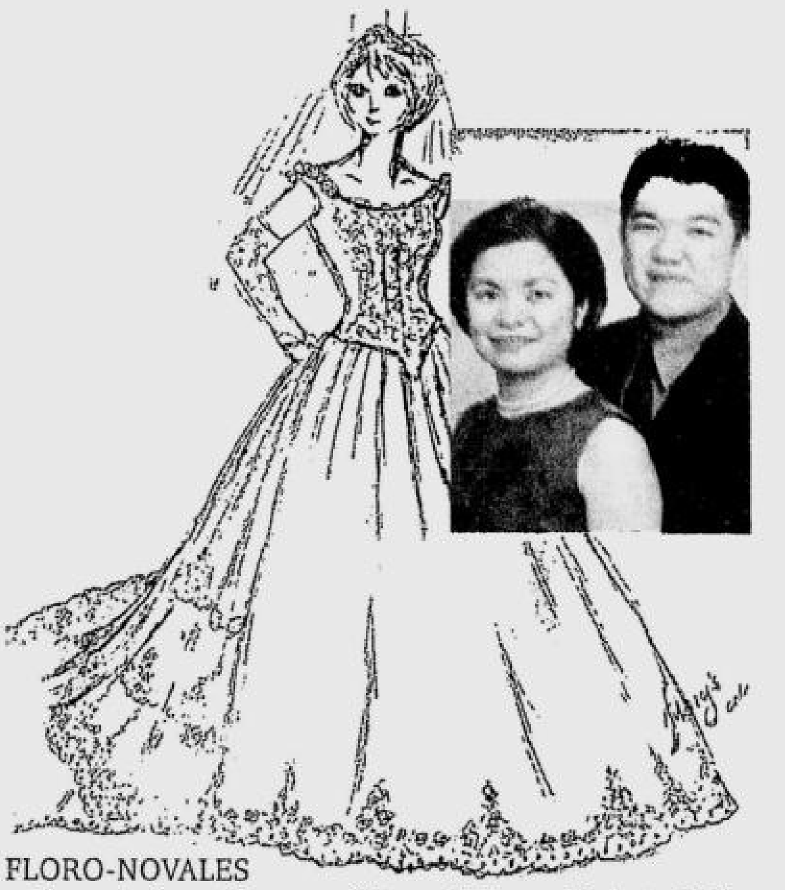
STO. DOMINGO-GAVIÑO

Zoriel Sto. Domingo, son of **Oscar** and **Ma. Teresa (nee Aguilar) Sto. Domingo**, and **Jhoanne Gaviño**, daughter of **Teodulo Jr.** and **Norma Bolgado-Gaviño**, exchanged wedding vows on Jan. 26 at the St. James the Great Parish Church in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The bride wore an off-white shantung silk and chiffon gown designed by **Oskar Peralta**. A garden reception followed in Alabang Hills Village.



CUENCA-PAINITAN

Exquisite threadwork and brilliant beading lend elegance to this bridal gown designed by **Ernest Santos** for **Vivian Painitan** of California, United States, for her Feb. 9 wedding to **Ariel Cuenca**, also from California.

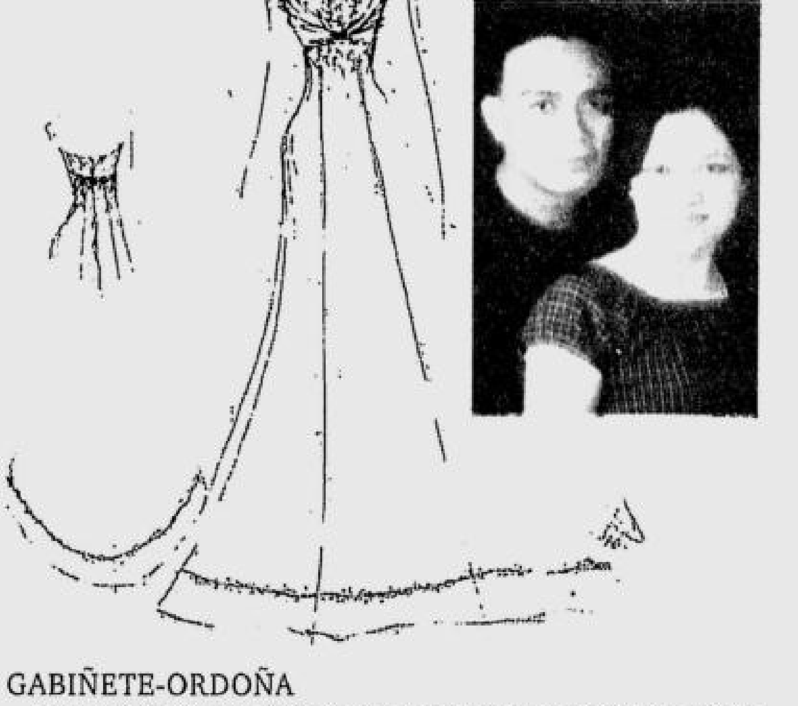


FLORO-NOVALES

Pierre Anthony Floro, son of Doctors **Felipe** and **Aniceta Co-Floro**, will wed **Jennifer Sarnantha Novales**, daughter of **Charisse Novales vda. de Lingad**, on Feb. 2 at the St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang. A dinner dance reception will follow at the Rigodon Ballroom, Peninsula Manila Hotel.

The bride will wear a Mary's of Boston ivory *poie de soie* gown with boned bodice, Swarovski beads and beaded floral garlands. Rosettes accent the shoulders. The layered sweep train is bordered by scalloped eyelet with embroidery and beads.

Her entourage will don ensembles in butter-yellow.



GABIÑETE-ORDOÑA

Rey Gabiñete, son of **Florencio** and **Lydia D. Gabiñete** of Cebu City, and **Leilani Ordoña**, daughter of **Antonio Sr.** and **Zenaida A. Ordoña** of Legazpi City, will exchange marriage vows on Feb. 9 at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral Church. Reception will follow at the Cebu City Marriott Hotel. The bride will wear a strapless gown made of duchess satin with rhinestones and glass beads, designed and executed by **Salvador Malto**.

Milestones

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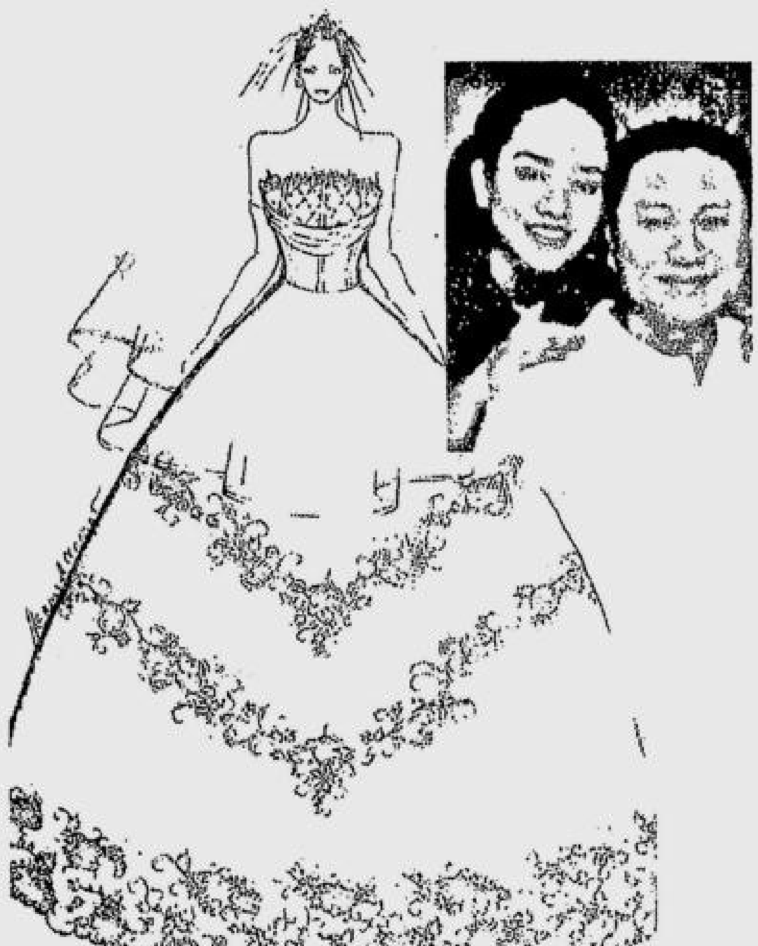
MARGALLO-MAGAYANES

Mike Margallo, son of **Benjamin** and **Gemma Margallo**, tied the knot with **Mayet Magayanes**, daughter of **Rodrigo** and **Aracelie Magayanes**, on Jan. 17, at the Our Lady of the Gate Parish in Daraga, Albay. Reception was held at the Concourse Convention Center, Legazpi City.

ESTEBAN-ASTORGA

Celix Esteban, son of Mr. and Ms **Carlito Esteban**, and **Mary Ann Astorga**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Astorga**, exchanged marriage vows on Jan. 19 at the Santuario de San Jose Church in Greenhills. Reception followed at the Amorsolo Grand Ballroom of the Manila Galleria Suites.



YUMUL-DE GUZMAN

Christopher D. Yumul, son of lawyer **Antonio** and **Proserfina Yumul**, ties the knot today with **Bernice de Guzman**, daughter of architect **Cecilio** and **Marilou De Guzman**, at the Our Lady of Remedies, Chapel I, Clarkfield Pampanga. Reception follows at the Fontana Convention Center. The bride wears a bustier corset-style gown with drapes in *piña* embellished with Swarovski stones, cut glass and mixed pearls accented with *callado* embroidery, a creation of **Manny Dizon Ocampo.**

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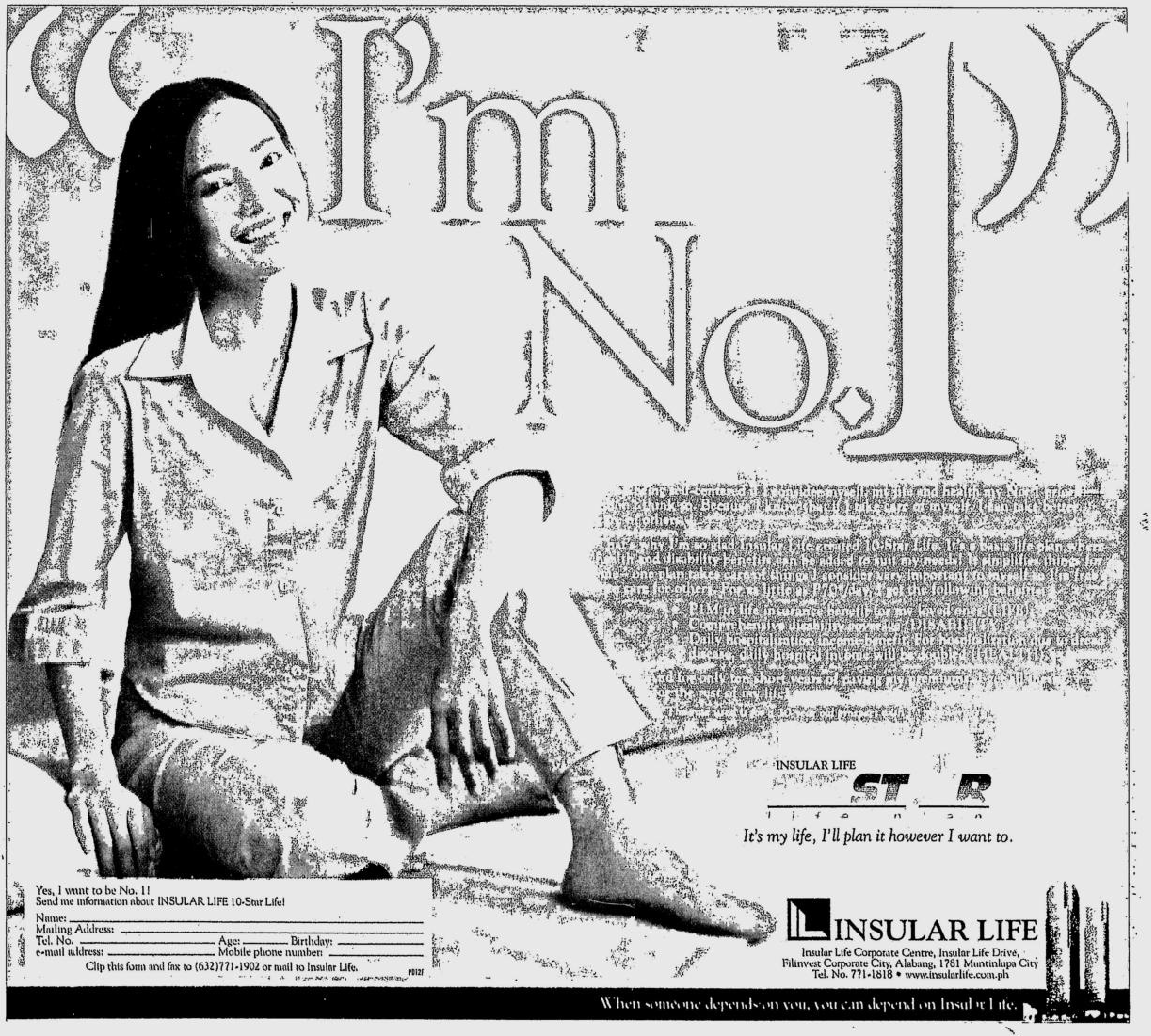

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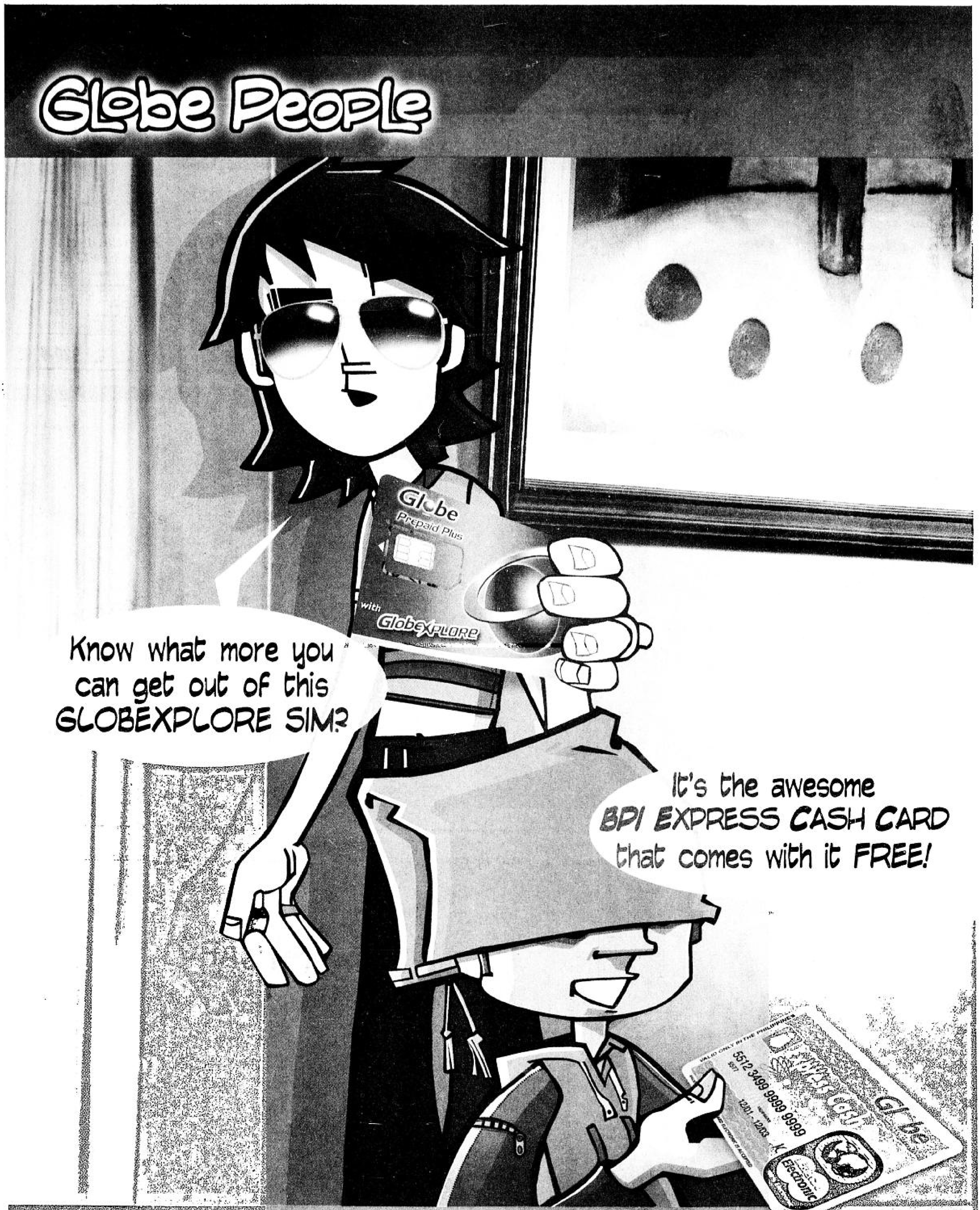
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Diva socialite takes a bow, vintage look, Talk's exit and new Harper's Bazaar

LIVED-IN-LUXE. Ripped jeans for that old-is-new-again look

DIARY of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo Pendelton. A grand dame bows out. "I was just watching the **Madonna** concert on HBO. She is simply amazing. I am in awe of how she has been able to reinvent herself over and over again through the years to stay fresh and remain an icon (quite unlike poor **Diana Ross**, the ex-diva). As **Maya Angelou** wrote in her book, 'Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now,' 'Each of us has the right and the responsibility to assess the roads which lie ahead, and those over which we have traveled, and if the future road looks ominous or unpromising, and the roads back uninviting, then we need to gather our resolve and, carrying only the necessary baggage, step off that road into another direction.' I think the ability to reformat oneself and change with the times is the mark of a true survivor. It is certainly Madonna's trademark, and hopefully, it will be mine, too.

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

"It has been about a year since Anton first purloined my diaries and published them in his column. At first I must admit I was a bit peeved that he took so private a document and laid it all out—literally and figuratively. Since then, I have grown to love writing for you, dear reader. Putting my thoughts down on paper has helped me to grow as a person and for that Anton will have my eternal gratitude. Thank you, Anton.

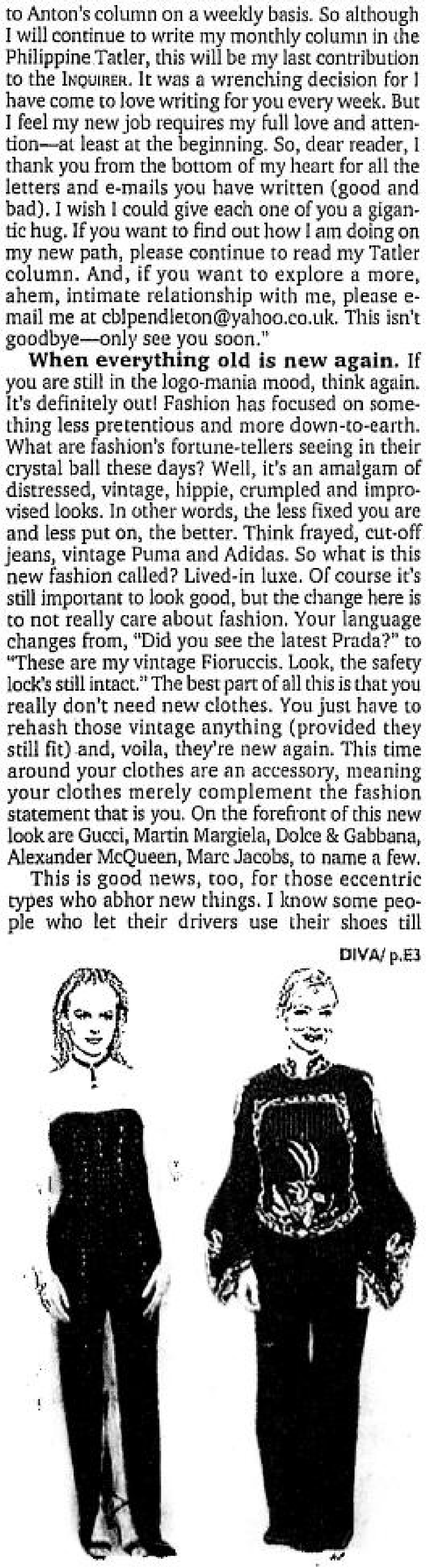
"It's been quite a tumultuous year for all of us and our economy seems to continue spiraling down while our politicians continue to act like Nero—fiddling while Rome burns. How I wish that one of our politicians would have the candor of **President Duhalde** of Argentina and just admit that our political class is s--t. But I think waiting for that to happen would leave me blue in the face. So I've decided to do something about it (and help my pocketbook while I'm at it—low interest rates are great for business but not for trust fund babies like me—sigh). I have taken a job. Yes, you read it right. A JOB. I think it is high time I ceased to be a full-time socialite and part-time pundit and instead become a full-time working gal and very part-time socialite. This way I help contribute to our GDP and add to my pocketbook all at once. Sounds like win-win to me—except for one thing.

"Sadly though, dear reader, a full-time job does not leave me a lot of free time to contribute to Anton's column on a weekly basis. So although I will continue to write my monthly column in the Philippine Tatler, this will be my last contribution to the INQUIRER. It was a wrenching decision for I have come to love writing for you every week. But I feel my new job requires my full love and attention—at least at the beginning. So, dear reader, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the letters and e-mails you have written (good and bad). I wish I could give each one of you a gigantic hug. If you want to find out how I am doing on my new path, please continue to read my Tatler column. And, if you want to explore a more, ahem, intimate relationship with me, please e-mail me at cblpendleton@yahoo.co.uk. This isn't goodbye—only see you soon."

When everything old is new again. If you are still in the logo-mania mood, think again. It's definitely out! Fashion has focused on something less pretentious and more down-to-earth. What are fashion's fortune-tellers seeing in their crystal ball these days? Well, it's an amalgam of distressed, vintage, hippie, crumpled and improvised looks. In other words, the less fixed you are and less put on, the better. Think frayed, cut-off jeans, vintage Puma and Adidas. So what is this new fashion called? Lived-in luxe. Of course it's still important to look good, but the change here is to not really care about fashion. Your language changes from, "Did you see the latest Prada?" to "These are my vintage Fioruccis. Look, the safety lock's still intact." The best part of all this is that you really don't need new clothes. You just have to rehash those vintage anything (provided they still fit) and, voila, they're new again. This time around your clothes are an accessory, meaning your clothes merely complement the fashion statement that is you. On the forefront of this new look are Gucci, Martin Margiela, Dolce & Gabbana, Alexander McQueen, Marc Jacobs, to name a few.

This is good news, too, for those eccentric types who abhor new things. I know some people who let their drivers use their shoes till

DIVA/ p.E3



BEST DRESSED ACTRESSES. Golden Globe's red carpet glories Nicole Kidman (YSL) and Cate Blanchett (Christian Dior)

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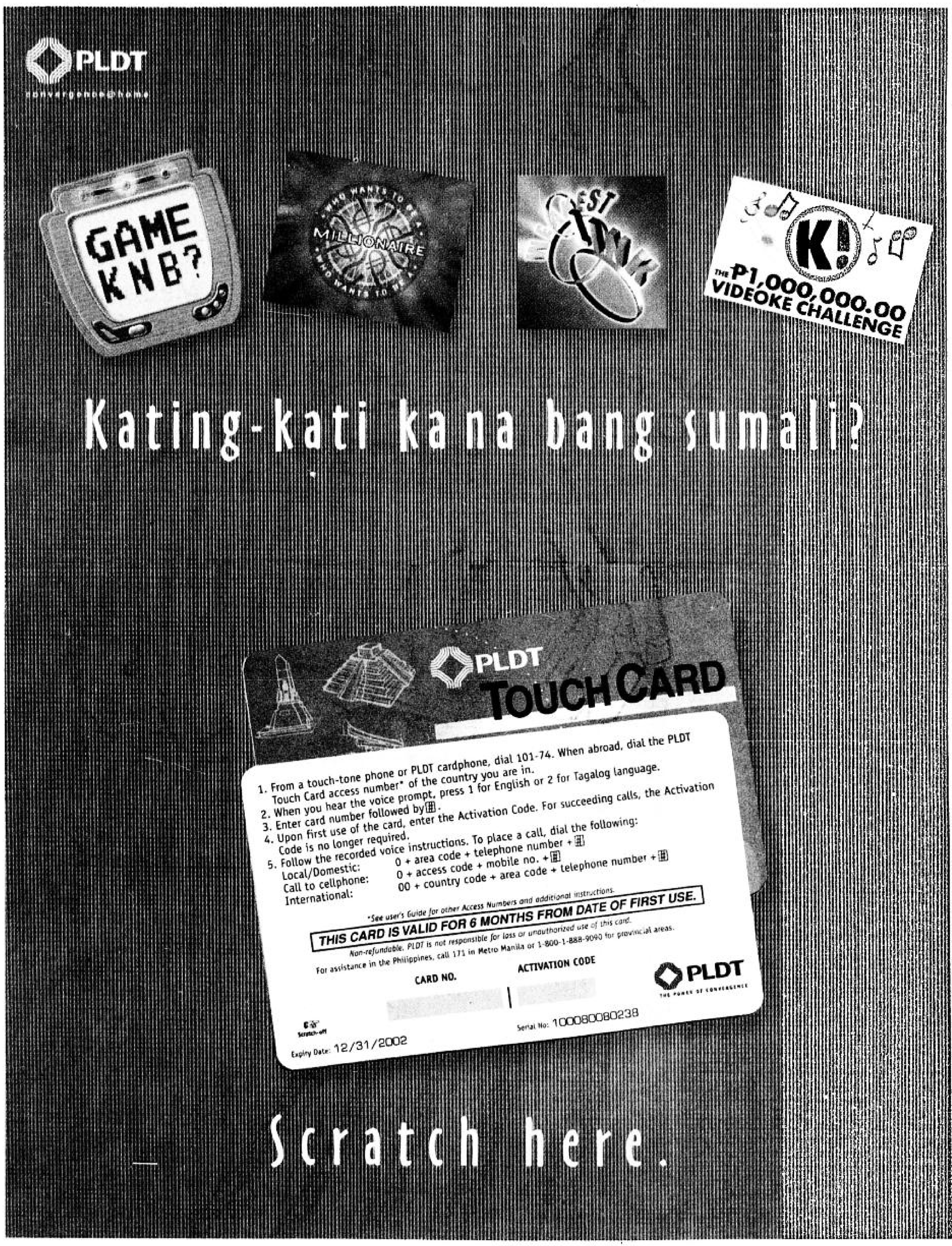
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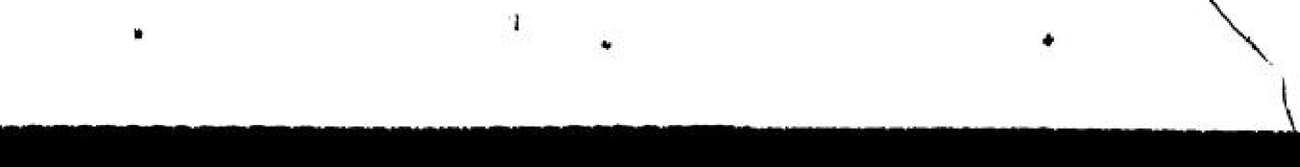

PLDT Touch Cards are available in all PLDT Business Offices, LBC stations, SM Malls, 7-11 outlets, I-mart and other authorized dealers nationwide.

Sto. Niño continues to bless Cebu and devotees nationwide

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WE were among thousands who flocked to Cebu on Jan. 19 to attend the procession and the Mass on the feast of Sto. Niño de Cebu. By the time my friends and I arrived at the Basilica from the airport, the church was already closed in preparation for the procession that would start at 1:30 p.m.

But by some miracle we were able to go in and pray in front of the holy image. I was also able to take photos of the icon. We kneeled in front of the miraculous image, cried our hearts out and asked for His help. My companions were Ging Ong, Susan Laureola, Marie Yatco and Pol Capistrano. We called ourselves Pilgrims of Mary.

I was there to ask that my left eye be healed. I lighted candles for dear friends and family back home. My companions had their own intentions. We were very sure that the Sto. Niño would not fail us.

Masses of people attend procession

We waited at the corner of Osmeña Avenue and Lapu-Lapu Street for the image of the Sto. Niño encased in a *virina* to arrive for its route of winding streets. We waited patiently while reciting the Rosary. At 6:30 p.m. I positioned myself near the corner to be able to take a picture, but I was not prepared for the masses of people who came with the image.

Young people held hands to form a security circle around the *carroza*, so people would not surge toward the image. To protect myself, I turned to face a wall of people also waiting; but we were still pushed back against the edge of the street. People waved at the image and danced.

The miracle was that the *carroza* carrying the image stood for a few minutes from where I was, so I could take a picture.

Cebuanos are very blessed

The Cebuanos have been honoring the Sto. Niño since a Spanish soldier, Juan Camus, found the image inside a small hut. This was 44 years after Ferdinand Magellan had given the image to Queen Juana in 1521. They are blessed tremendously by this devotion as shown by the prosperity the province enjoys, and by the general peace and order that prevail in the place.

When we went to the Basilica to attend Mass the following day, people were inside body to body trying to follow the Mass being celebrated at the Pilgrim Center. Those who could not even see what was going on continued to wave during the praising and singing.

Finally, we decided to walk over to the Cebu Cathderal to hear Mass. Fr. Marnel Mejia, whose brothers are also priests, said the Mass. In his homily, he said we should be childlike and patient like the Sto. Niño, who waited for 33 years to grow into a man. He had the patience to wait in the fullness of time to be able to save us through His passion and death, so that we could attain the fullness of life.

The good priest advised that we should not listen to politicians who would only use us to gain power for themselves. Instead, we should ask what we could do for ourselves and for our country.

We felt blessed as well

Devotees from other places came by plane, by boat from the other islands and by bus from the nearby towns. But they came with love in their hearts, waving at Him when they saw Him, whispering prayers that He would not surely ignore. Some poor people had to save money so they could go to Cebu City for the fiesta.

The Sto. Niño—the Christ Child—is the patron of rich and poor, young and old, who become childlike when they pray to Him. My friends and I felt very blessed that we were called to go. The experience made us feel "the peace that surpasseth all understanding."

Prayer to the Sto. Niño de Cebu

"O miraculous St. Niño/we prostrate before your sacred image/We beseech you to cast a merciful look/on our troubled hearts/Let your tender love so inclined to pity/be softened at our prayers/and grant us that grace for which we ardently implore you.

"Take from us all unberable affliction and despair/For your sacred infancy's sake, hear our prayers and send us your consolation and aid that we may praise you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen."

Blessed Padre Calungsod

We saw the image of Blessed Pedro Calungsod at the Cebu Cathedral. We prayed to him. I asked him for a sign if my prayer would be answered. I asked for a rose that would be given to me. That same day when we went to the National Shrine of St. Joseph in Mandaue, Pol gave us girls a pink rose each.

The St. Joseph Shrine is another marvel. The original image is on the right side of the church when one comes in through the main door. The left side has the image of Our Lady of Manaoag.

Pilgrims are beginning to come to this church to pray to St. Joseph.

I first came here when Our Lady of Manaoag was enshrined in March 1996 at the invitation of Edna Toral. Then again when Bishop Antonio Ranola invited to me to attend the dedication of the church as the National Shrine of St. Joseph. This is now a pilgrim place for those who seek the help of St. Joseph.

Before we drove to the airport for our flight back to Manila, we visited St. Joseph to say goodbye. The visit to Cebu was a beautiful spiritual experience. It helped that we had a van owned by Edna Toral and driven by Leo.

Sto. Niño de las Flores

There are many stories of miracles wrought by the Sto. Niño. One such miraculous story was told to me by Sol Alturas Yu who sells rice in Paco.

In 1979, Sol and her family were living in a rented house on San Antonio St. in Paco. At that time she was able to obtain an image of the Sto. Niño from a friend who was leaving for the United States for good. The image made of wood was barely 2 ft tall; it was covered with flowers.

The moment the image was enthroned in Sol's house, things began charge for the family. By 1985 Sol and her husband Primo Yu were able to buy their rented house. After saving money for many years, they were able to build a five-story residential building where her family and the families of her children now live.

Thankful, Sol serves at the Paco Church as president of the CWL and gives help to those in need.

Her Sto. Niño de las Flores is her most precious treasure.

Sto. Niño de Providencia

TODAY is the feast of the Sto. Niño de Providencia in BF Resort Village, Las Piñas. Since I wrote about the image last Sunday, many many people have gone to the chapel to pray.

Spirit of Love Catholic Community

WHEN we went to the Healing Mass of Blessed Padre Pio at the Spirit of Love Catholic Community Chapel in the Manila Seedling Bank, it was pleasant to find out that this group had been giving Healing Masses that had helped a lot of people. Sculptor Dr. Ton Raymundo, an elder in the community, had invited us.

What started as a Bible study group in 1989 emerged into a powerful charismatic community with Fr. Teofilo Rustia as spiritual director. At the forefront then was Bro. Emilio Lim of the well known appliance company.

There will be a Life in the Spirit Seminar on Feb. 16 and 17. Those who wish to join can call 929-3092 or 929-3056. Ask for Sister Myrna.

Remedios Co-Chua, Paco parish awardee

REMEDIOS Co-Chua was given a plaque of recognition by the Apostleship of Prayer in Paco Parish for her support for the organization as vicariate president and for having served the AP in Paco for 10 years.

The CWL in Paco also gave her a plaque for her involvement in the CWL since 1988, sharing her expertise as an instructor in the CWL cosmetology classes in all its summer projects. The awards were given to Ms Chua during the send-off party for her. She has migrated to the USA to join her family.

Sinag-tala books

THOSE who have difficulty finding the books of Blessed Josemaria Escriva can call Louie Uson, managing director of Sinag-tala Publishers, at 897-1161 or fax 896-9626.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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EXHIBITION 2001

Lara Jo Regan, USA

World Press Photo is an independent non profit organization, founded in the Netherlands in 1955. Its main aim is to support and promote internationally the work of professional press photographers. Over the years, World Press Photo has evolved into an independent platform for photojournalism and the free exchange of information. Besides managing the extensive exhibition program, the organization also runs a number of educational projects. World Press Photo operates under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

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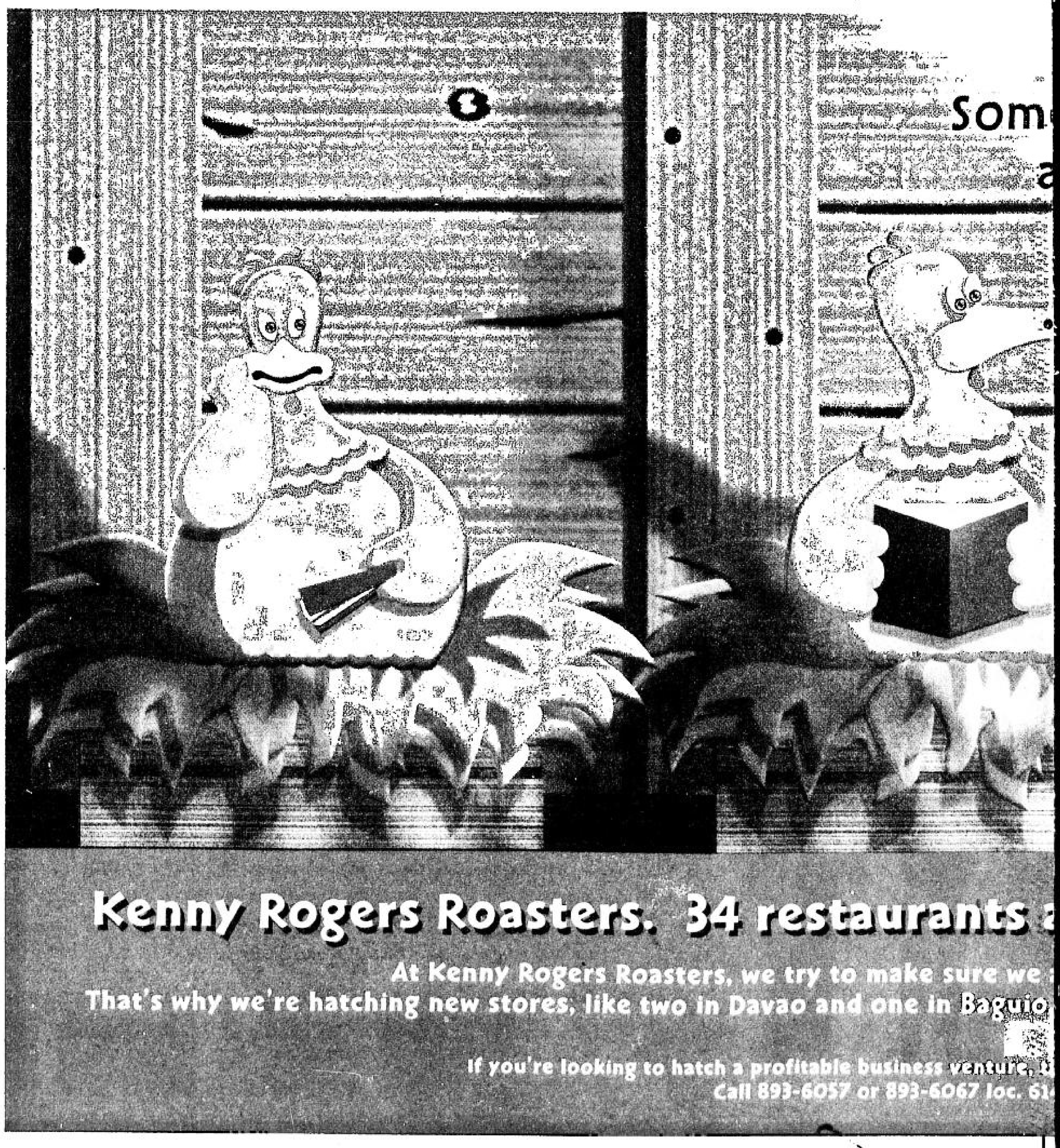

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SEXIEST Hunks of the Year—Jericho, Bernard, Piolo, Carlos and Diether (photographed in Cebu)

Meryll Soriano
Meryll Soriano

a magical smile...

a magical taste...

...Milk Magic

Intriguing people II

TEESAW

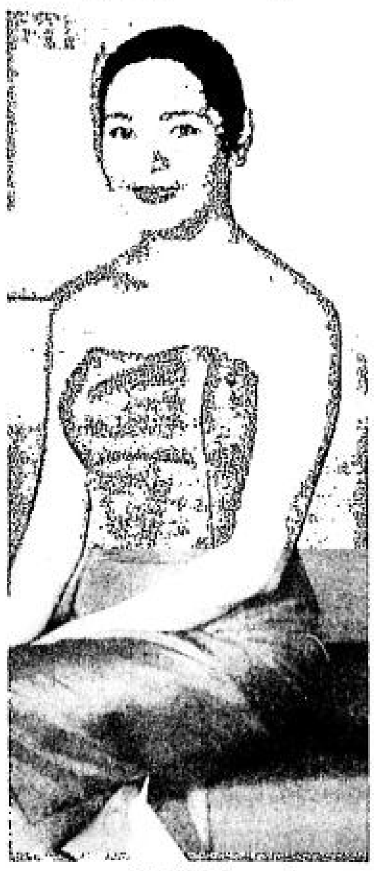
Raul Teehankee

What sets our most intriguing people apart from the rest of the crowd? A combination of extraordinary looks, personality, talent, commitment, IQ and EQ.

Meet our choices, part II!

INTERNATIONAL TV host, gorgeous Asha Gill, was a recent Manila visitor (photographed in Intramuros)

CEO in the news, Manny Pangilinan, bought PLDT and The Fort but changed his mind about buying a TV station (photographed at the Manila Peninsula)



MAV Rufino, classy and beautiful artist-wife of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Rafael Buenaventura (photographed at the Manila Peninsula)

KIDNAP victim survivor—Reghis Romero seen here with Lilibeth (photographed at Azzuro Too! opening at Megamall)

RIVERMAYA lead singer Rico Blanco, seen here with Dutch model Jamie Lee Huismann (photographed at 7840 Makati Ave.)

SUPER MODEL of the Philippines, Sarah Meier (photographed at The Fort)

AGA and Charlene Muhlach (photographed in Baguio City)

DINGDONG Dantes, the latest heartthrob on the Filipino soap opera circuit and not a bad TV host, seen with Darlene Cabungco (photographed at 7840 Makati Ave.)

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. posing for a memento with Maritess Pardo-Panlilio (photographed at the Teehankee Hall of Ateneo Law School in Rockwell)

Diva socialite takes a bow, vintage look...

(From page E1)

they're worn in just so that they don't look new. Another advantage is that it somehow separates you from all the wannabes and the "nouveau."

Golden Globe's best dressed. Although a lot of women stood out in this year's Golden Globes (and I am not talking about the acting), this year's red-carpet walk was very much toned down (perhaps out of respect for 9/11). Most of the women wore black and if they wore color at all, it was subdued. Here are T'NTs picks for best dressed: Best actress in a musical/comedy **Nicole Kidman** who wore a YSL Rive Gauche and **Cate Blanchett** who wore a navy pantsuit from Christian Dior Haute Couture.

Talk-ed out, new look for Bazaar and new magazine in Manila. Talk, the magazine run by Miramax and edited by **Tina Brown**, has been placed to pasture. The last issue will have **Sean Penn** on the cover. Brown said to the press, "Unfortunately, we simply had to be realistic about the fact that 2001 and 2002 to date represent the worst period in memory for general interest magazines." The "talk" is that the magazine has been losing money for years, but the owners were too scared to pull the plug on Brown. Well, they finally did.

Harper's Bazaar editor **Glenda Bailey**'s first "official" issue of Harper's Bazaar was unveiled this week, which shows a sexy **Gisele Bundchen** wearing a Giorgio Armani dress. The catch here is that when you flip the cover it shows her backside, a genius in layout and creativity. Perhaps credit here should go to creative director Filipino-American **Stephen Gan**. The magazine looks great. It is focused, elegant and brimming with energy.

An all-new automotive magazine is being launched this month via a by-invitation-only grand inaugural on Jan. 29 at the NBC Tent. The magazine is called C and will focus on the most exotic and impressive cars in the country. Get an invite. The buzz is that it's not to be missed!

10 things that can make you laugh. Laughing out loud has become a luxury lately. It has come few and far between. But here are some things that may enliven your day.

1. Game-show contestants. Especially when they give stupid and inane answers.

2. Blackouts. If you don't laugh, they surely will make you will cry.

3. Messianic figures like G. Cosmos who think they can put one over us Pinoys.

4. US **Senator Brownback**'s declaration that the Philippines will be "the next Afghanistan." Imagine being taken over by the Abu Sayyaf. It's a joke, senator, right? I hope you are not psychic.

5. Those people at Napocor saying that the blackout last Monday was due to thieves cutting power lines. It's like the jellyfish story again. Somehow we don't buy that.

6. **Mark Jimenez** and the fact that he is allegedly close to this administration. Last I checked he was a wanted criminal in the US.

7. The TV show "Correspondents" episode last Monday that featured an interview with **Erap**. The reporter heard **Jinggoy** shouting aloud. At first she thought he was mad at someone. But it turned out he was just answering questions from a game show. Did he answer correctly?

8. In the same show, police seized tons of marijuana and burned all the leaves. I wonder if they were happy about it or had a tremendous food trip!

9. Of all the countries in the world, the Philippines is the only one with ties to **Osama Bin Laden**. We really have all the luck!

10. Former senator **Juan Ponce Enrile**'s haircut.

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than others.

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always have a lot to crow about.
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SMART

Name That Tone

It's So Easy! This Game Is All Via Text. You'll Get A Clue About A Song, Then Download Its Tone, So You Can Guess The Title And Sing Your Way To Big Cash Prizes!

Correct! Your answer is the tone of the day.
SMART

CLUE:
The modern Stone Age family--need we say more.

CLUE:
The song that starts with "I heard from a friend today and she said you're in town".

CLUE:
Moviegoers remember the scene from Top Gun where this song was used

A Blast Of Over

₱500,000.00

In Cash Prizes To Be Raffled Away!

SMART
Simply Amazing!

SMART NAME THAT TONE SETS THE BEAT FOR SOUNDS AND PRIZES

Register Now!

Key in NTT and send to 234. Then follow the succeeding instructions;

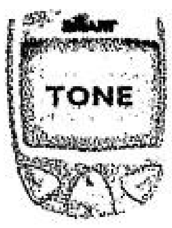
- Key in NAME <your full name> and send to 234.
- Key in BIRTH <mmddyyyy> and send to 234.
- Key in ADD <address> and send to 234.

Your registration automatically earns you a raffle entry for all weekly draws.

SMART
The theme from the Emmy Award winning TV series on the lighter side of law.

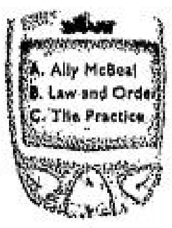
Play The Game!

You will then receive a clue about the mystery tone of the day.



Guess The Title By Downloading The Tone!

Key in TONE and send to 234. Together with the downloaded tone, you will also receive the multiple choice set of ringtone titles.



SMART
ANSWER A

Text in your Answer!

Simply key in ANSWER <A, B or C> and send to 234. You will receive a message telling you whether you got the correct answer or not. There will only be one chance to guess the mystery tone of the day. Each correct answer earns you 5 raffle entries for the Weekly, Monthly and Grand draws.

SMART
INVITE
09182442322

Invite Your Friends And Earn More Raffle Entries!

Key in INVITE <your friend's SMART celfone number> and send to 234. Each invite earns you 1 raffle entry, to be added to your total raffle entries.

To redisplay the clue, key in SHOW and send to 234.

To check your raffle entries, key in POINTS and send to 234.

To temporarily stop receiving the daily questions, key in UPDATE OFF and send to 234.
To resume receiving the daily questions, key in UPDATE ON and send to 234.
The mystery tone of the day will be updated at 12 midnight daily.

Only subscribers with ringtone-download-capable handsets will be able to hear the mystery tone of the day. However, downloading is necessary to get the multiple choice set of ringtone titles. A subscriber without the necessary handset can still answer based on the clue and multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

WIN THESE PRIZES!

DRAW DATE	CASH PRIZE
GRAND DRAW: (1 winner) Feb. 11, 2002	₱200,000.00
MONTHLY DRAWS: (1 winner per draw) Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
WEEKLY DRAWS: (3 winners per draw) Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, and 11, 2002	₱10,000.00

**There will be a standard charge of ₱12.00 per ringtone download and ₱2.50 per message for all other transactions.*
**Cut-off time for the entries will be at 11:59 PM of the day before the draw date.*
**Ringtone-download-capable handsets are: Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, and 9210.*

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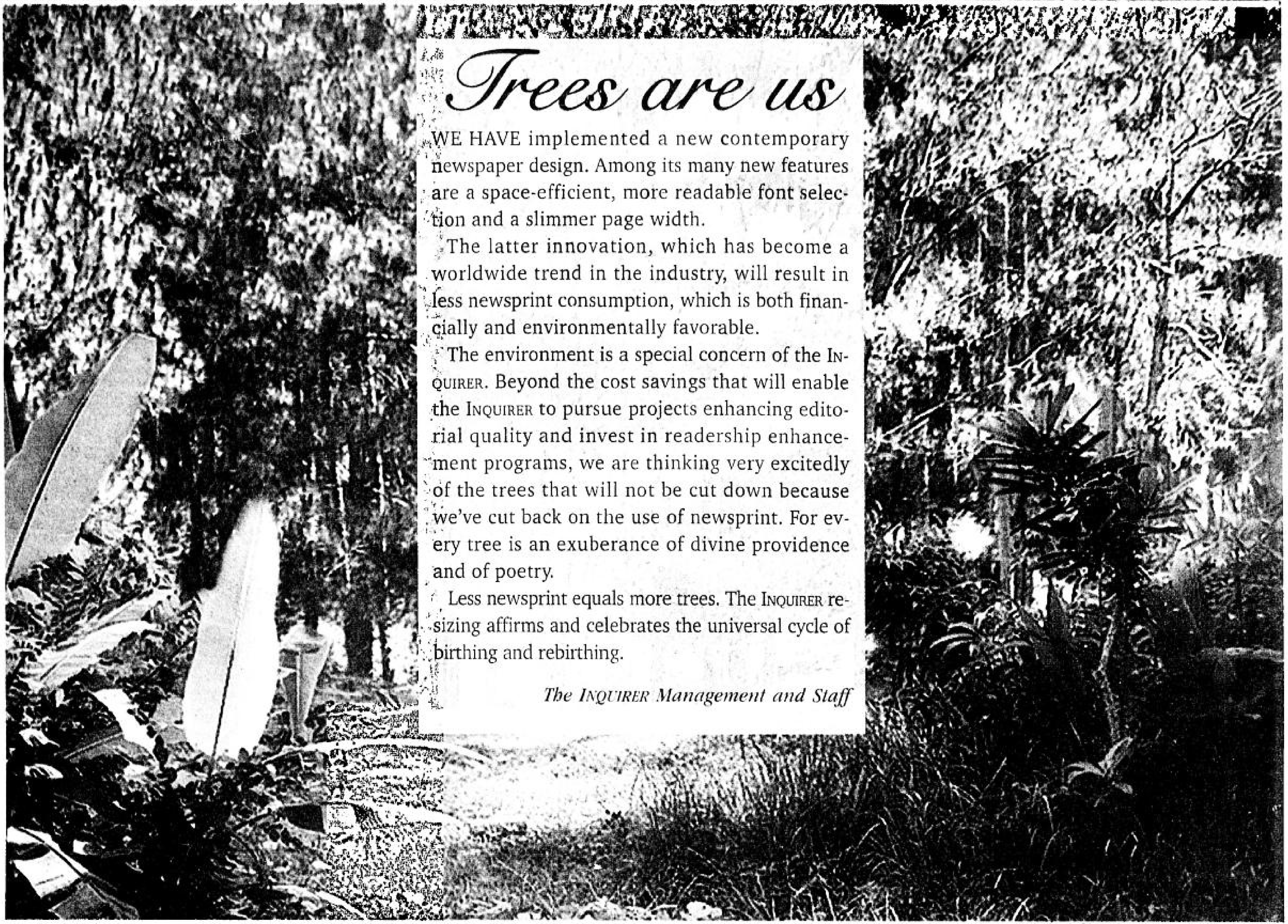
Resized REDESIGNED *Rebirth*



MANNY ANG. WELLS PHOTO/ PRIZE PHOTO CLUB

Trees are us

WE HAVE implemented a new contemporary newspaper design. Among its many new features are a space-efficient, more readable font selection and a slimmer page width.

The latter innovation, which has become a worldwide trend in the industry, will result in less newsprint consumption, which is both financially and environmentally favorable.

The environment is a special concern of the INQUIRER. Beyond the cost savings that will enable the INQUIRER to pursue projects enhancing editorial quality and invest in readership enhancement programs, we are thinking very excitedly of the trees that will not be cut down because we've cut back on the use of newsprint. For every tree is an exuberance of divine providence and of poetry.

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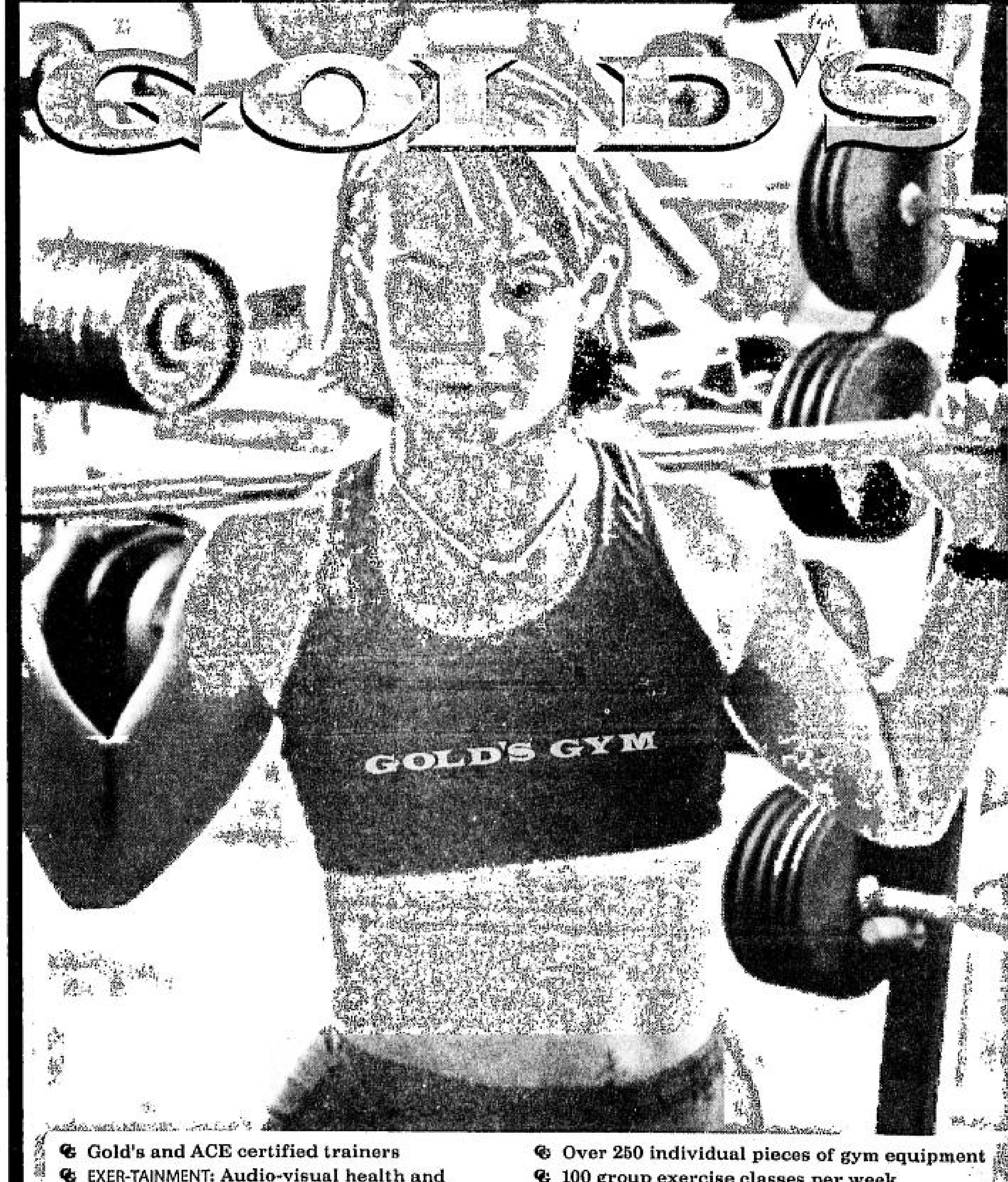
The INQUIRER Management and Staff



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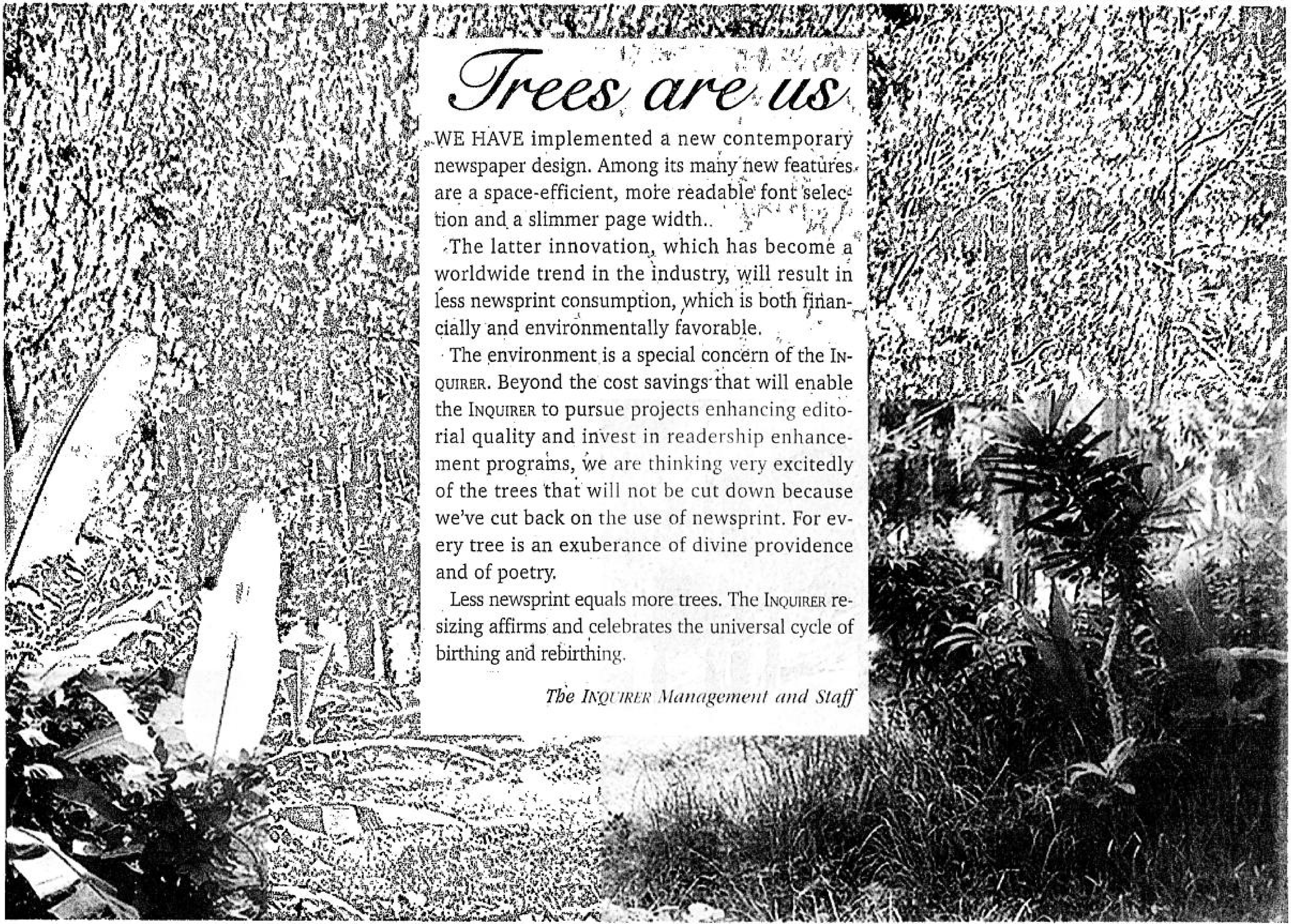

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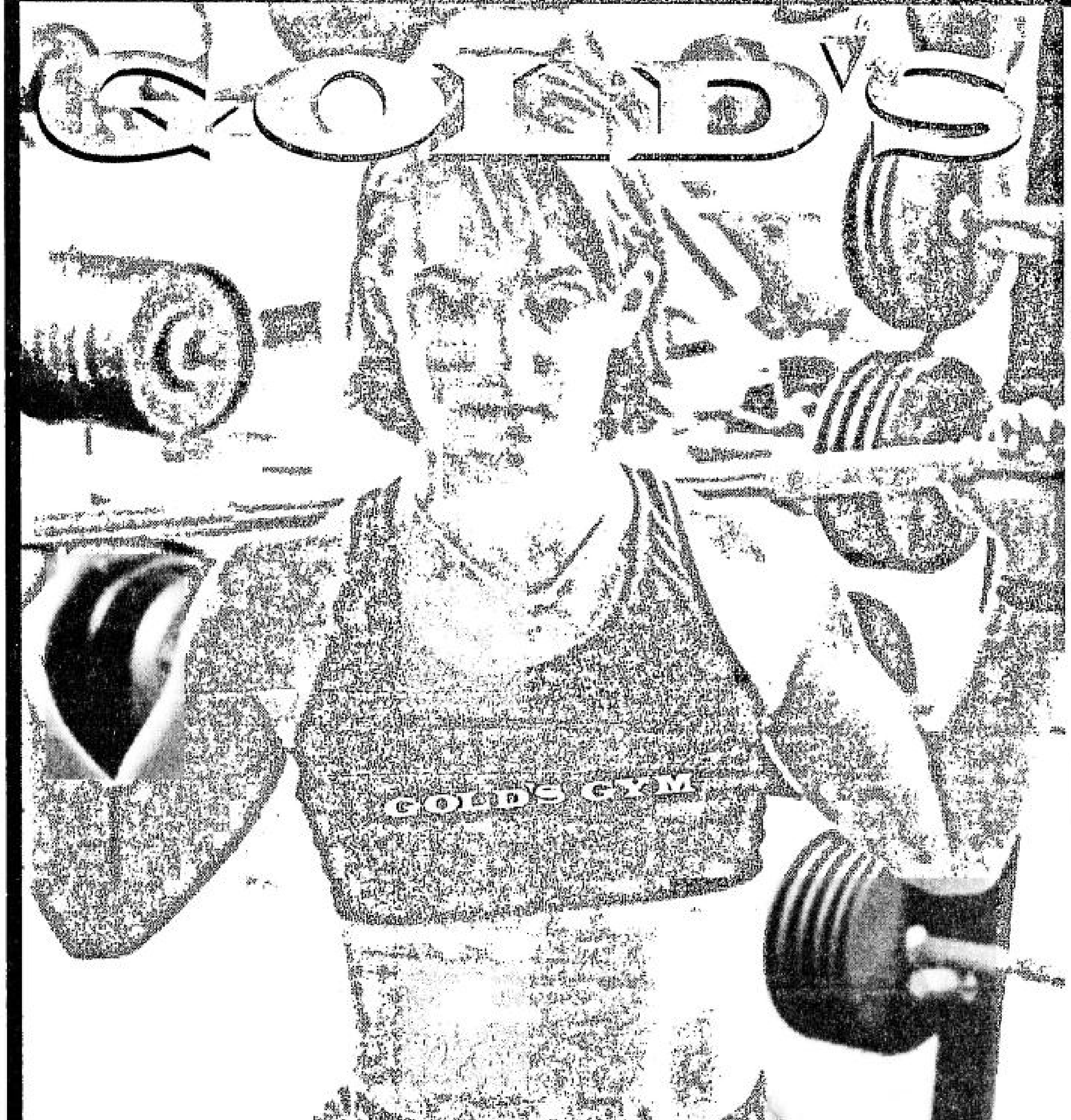

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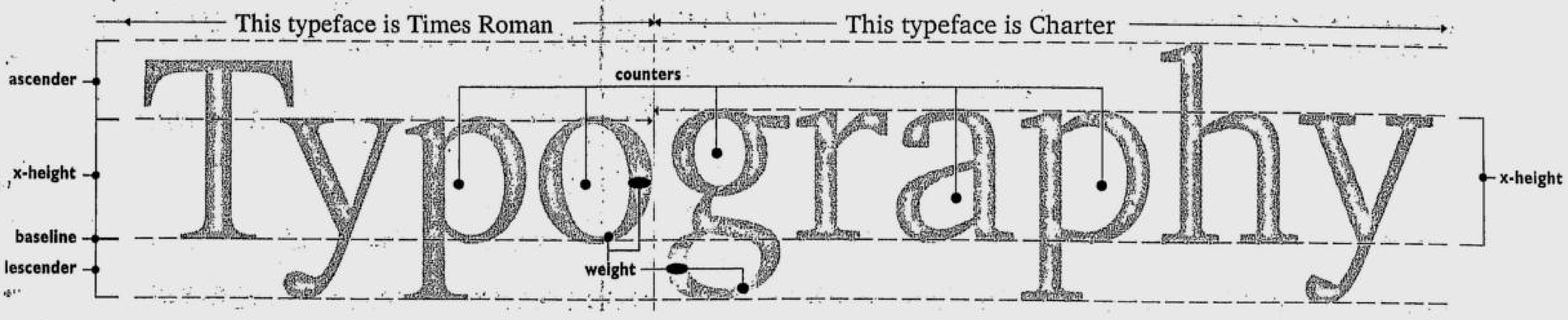


The makeover of face and body

I want my own space

By Lynett A. Villariba
Art & Design Director

MORE than the economic prospects of Project Big redesign, the Editorial Art and Design is excited about innovations that impact not only on the editorial product but on the future of newspaper reading.

You're spaced out

We take the redesign challenge as an opportunity to bring newspaper reading to its exalted position as the foremost activity deeply enriching the Everyman's outlook of a dynamic world. The newspaper still is the best source to draw a complete picture of events happening—more than cable TV does, more than the Web.

The angst in a tragic event, the guts in Everyman's quest, the glory of success, the metaphor, the paradox, the inquiring—no medium could best capture the sense of urgency for answers but the newspaper.

There is nothing better than having something tangible like a newspaper to hold on to for a while longer, when events whiz by in a blur on TV screens which replays and slow motions could not effectively complete.

The newspaper reader is in control of the flow of information—not the cable TV networks, not the satellite radio feed—long enough before newsprint turns jaundice and return to the elements.

The challenge for design is to chart a pleasant reading journey through

- a slimmer page size that leaves more elbow room to maneuver,
- a little less number of words to read that gets readers more to the point,
- a page an inch trimmer that keeps forests growing,
- a little less paper to make the deepest impression in just enough time it takes to read through.

Face of things to come

The object of news typography has been to squeeze as much character per column as can be read. The

Times Roman

font sample, the dominant typeface INQUIRER has worn since 1985, was originally created for the British newspaper, The London Times, in 1930 out of the same economical need.

Times change, and type forms change with them— and some outlive their usefulness. Every era develops its own aesthetic hallmarks, a language expressing the spirit of the times.

As readers become more sophisticated by graphic technologies, influenced in part by the diminishing supply of newsprint and the advent of the electronic paperless reading called the Web, new typefaces emerge that display a potent power: that of conveying impressions and feelings which influence reading taste.

Reading comfort as well as publishing economics are still the primary considerations why more and more large newspapers all over the world are redesigning, changing their look and their dimensions. The objective of the Inquirer redesign is to find the

Charter BT

perfect merging of comfort and economics.

Charter change

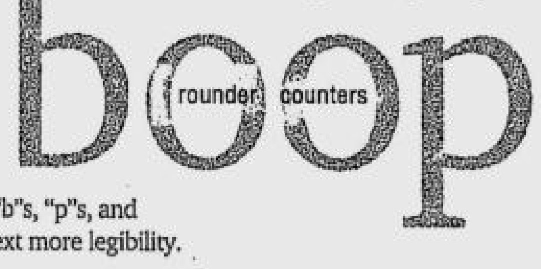
The redesign calls for a more condensed typeface that would allow more words per column inch to read. Ease of reading lies in the details as the chosen typeface for body text offers a high x-height, meaning the lower-case letters stand taller in proportion to the capitals, making type appears bigger without increasing its overall size.

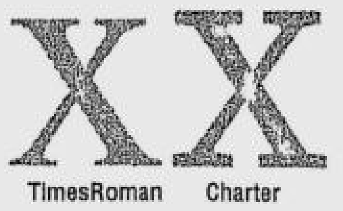
The choice serif typeface for body type is a formal, modern body type appropriate for long text documents called Charter BT. BT is the code for Bitstream, which is the licensing typeface company that owns it.

Of recent vintage (1987), it was one of six best typefaces selected in 1989 as most readable for newspaper body text by a group of experts for the Poynter Institute of Media Studies.

The new typeface for body text approximates the old Times Roman in text-length, word- and character- consumption.

The new font has rounder counters in its "o"s, "b"s, "p"s, and even "a"s which gives body text more legibility.





For the same point size, it has a higher x-height than the old Times Roman, making for shorter ascenders and descenders, thus enabling greater leading space between lines that results in reading eye relief for long text.

What is remarkable is that with slight modifications in character width, leading and point size, text loss after resizing is minimized at below 5 percent. Condensed at 95 percent, the Charter change allows for the barest minimum text loss in the transition to a slimmer format.

The typeface's aesthetic quality guarantees clarity in form particularly for problematic printing of wide areas of text matter. It ensures a cleaner-looking print which the most voracious readers appreciate most. It is designed to make an impression for hard news to get to its point quicker.

CM Y MYCY
Layout Version #1
"Nice! But blue seems more her color..."
Art Director
CM K
"SUN GIRL" PRINT AD:FA1 11/02/01 2:25 AM

A little variety goes a long way, especially in advertising. Even the best ads loose their power to attract when repeated too many times. By sending your ads by disk or Internet directly to the newspaper, Lexmedia's Digital Ad Delivery Service saves you time and production money for more ads, more often.

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The makeover of face and body

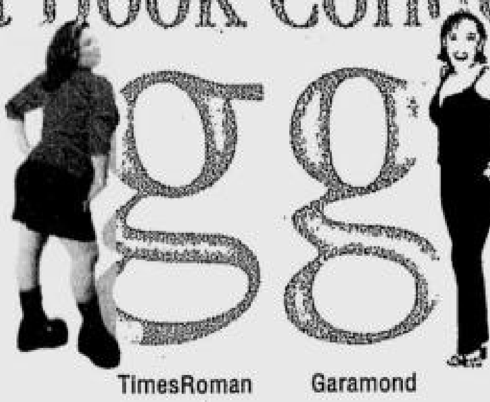
Garamond Book Condensed

Elegance of Garamond

Garamond is a contemporary typeface that has been lending elegance to magazine reading for quite some time. But it is its condensed version that makes it perfect for presenting news headlines in an elegant way.

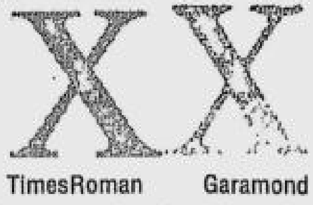
Reading the news banner headline in Garamond bold evokes urgency minus the sensationalism, as it smoothly segues into the other important news of the day in a matter-of-fact way that gets readers to the point quickly, without the distracting frills. Its elegant style conveys sobriety and credibility in the presentation of news information.

The redesign typeface not only approximates, but exceeds the old Times Roman in text length, word- and character- consumption.



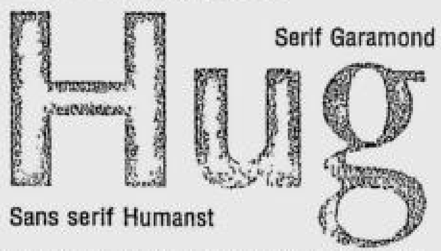
Versatile Garamond Condensed presents a wider range of type weight from light to bold. The chosen type style for most headlines, Garamond book condensed, is lighter and has a more even type weight. Because the contrast between thick and thin strokes is not that wide, it greatly reduces typographical chaos in a text-heavy page with a high story count and high advertising insertions.

The new headline typeface has round counters in the "o"s, "b"s, and "p"s, giving body text greater readability and aesthetic elegance.



For the same point size, it has a higher x-height that shortens ascenders and descenders, enabling greater breathing space between lines for reading comfort.

With its narrower character count per line width, it allows more word options for headline writing than before.



Serif Garamond, complimented by sans serif Humanst, give a fresh contemporary way of reading news to a newspaper generation which knew nothing else than the old classic standards, Times Roman and Helvetica.

The new headline typeface is user- and equipment-friendly. It is compatible with a wide range of printing technologies and design options.

The new typography has been created to retain and enhance the INQUIRER look. Redesign is a polishing act featuring practical changes for the new times.

Design will be there not to draw attention to itself but to let the essence of news telling show. Illustrations and colors are muted and eye-catching only where it matters, layout to project organization and clarity in news presentation. Visuals are stimulating, more than attention-grabbing; complimentary to—more than competitive with—words.

Even as redesign is deemed successful when not noticed at all, it intends to make a deeper impression that will stay long after the newspaper has returned to the elements.

THE A-TEAM

We did it with a cast of hundreds

By David Valdes

THE REDESIGN project was a gargantuan task that took more than a year and involved almost all departments of PDI and the press company FEP.

Teamwork was key in the implementation. And good teamwork was achieved because the members shared a vision and a goal clearly set by the president, Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, the chair, Marixi R. Prieto and the rest of the board of directors.

◎ An Inter-company Coordination Committee worked on all the preparations related to the redesign. Departments and companies involved were: Editorial, Art Department, Advertising Desk, Advertising Sales, Classifieds, IT, Digital Pre-press Unit, FEP Printers, Lexmedia Digital (digital ad acceptance partner), Circulation, Corporate Relations, Corporate Planning.

◎ Feasibility study was done in November 2000. Budget officer Joel de la Cruz did an analysis of the savings to be incurred on the redesign. Board approval was made December 2000. In January 2001, preparation began.

Redesign drafts were made, font types were painstakingly evaluated.

Objective was to find a font that was efficient but would not give readers eye strain. Font selection and final design was approved in March 2001. In charge was Lynett Villariba under the direction of the editor in chief.

◎ Three major stakeholders were identified as the key target audiences of the communication campaign. Readers, Advertisers and Circulation dealers.

HUMAN Resource chief Jesse Francis Rebustillo gives the lowdown on the high stakes involved in scaling down the paper.

◎ For the readers, two focused group discussions were held among hard-core readers of the INQUIRER. The new design was presented. The key question asked, "Don't you feel short-changed with the size reduction?" The answer was a resounding "NO!" Corporate Relations under Celine Madamba and Research under Miner Generalao conducted the discussions in the presence of associate editor Abel Ulanday. ***(See story on Page F8.)***

◎ For the advertising department, the task was to explain that the move was well-accepted by the readers, it was a way to avoid price increases, and the ad impact would remain the same. Meetings with ad agencies were conducted from March 2001 up to January 2002 by Rene Reinoso, SVP for sales and marketing; Pepito Olarte, vice president for advertising; and Kenny Nuyda, AVP, Advertising.

◎ For circulation dealers, the task was to assure them that readers would accept the move and that their business would not suffer. They were reminded that increasing cover price would not be a good option this year because of the economy. Rene Reinoso and Glo Lardizabal managed the meetings.

◎ An internal communication program was also implemented to assure employees of the INQUIRER's continued dominance despite changes. Meetings were held with employees groups to discuss the redesign. Jesse Rebustillo and the HR group were involved in the conduct of the meeting.

◎ The editors were consulted about the move and the rationale was discussed. Emphasis was made on tighter editing, improving editorial quality and beating deadlines.

◎ On the press side, FEP/Alliance studied the best procedures for retooling and recalibrating four press lines for the new size. It was determined that it would take a maximum of seven days for each line to be retooled to the new 50-inch web. Therefore, it would take 28 days to finish the entire resizing process.

One newspaper spread used to be 27 inches and a web can print two spreads at a time, hence the former web width used to be 54 inches.

With 50 inches, a spread is now 25 inches and one page is 12.5 inches. Newspaper height remains the same at 53 centimeters. EVP for FEP is Dennis Valdes. Henry Santos is the general manager for press operations.

◎ It was decided that the transition to the new design would be smoother if advertisers would submit their materials in digital files rather than film. It would be easier for advertisers to resize their materials in digital form and costs would be less. A campaign to convert to digital materials was conducted, spearheaded by Sales and Marketing and Brian Ng of Lexmedia Digital Inc. The latter was designated as the company that would process the digital materials.

◎ In early June, it was decided that the implementation of the redesign would be postponed from June 2001 to January 2002 in order to take advantage of the new press plant to be opened in Mamplasan, Laguna. The project members took the opportunity to speak to more advertisers and orient them about digital ad acceptance and the conversion to the new design.

◎ All editorial templates had to be changed to the new design. IT under Gary Libby was instrumental in the implementation of the new specifications. The classifieds production team under Lulu Diaz and Mar de los Reyes also had to study new fonts in order to accommodate the line ads. Emphasis was made on maintaining the same number of characters per line despite the narrowing of columns.

◎ Finally, two days before the implementation, advertising desk under Rey Cruz and the Digital Pre-press under Vlady Cuya had to measure all ad materials to ensure compliance to new ad sizes. All non-conforming ads had to be identified and their makers had to be called to remind them to resize and resubmit new materials.

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Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	City Plaza Tower, Plaza del Conde St.	Q Plaza Congressional Avenue	Dan's Marketing Bldg., Mc Arthur Highway, San Fernando	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

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Why downsizing was called 'Project Big'

By David Valdes
SVP for Corporate Services

THE PROJECT was called "Project Big" because if successful, it would mean tremendous savings in newsprint and a substantial positive effect on the environment.

It all started with an article in a trade magazine, published by the World Association of Newspapers in early 2000. The article was about how newspapers in Canada, United States and Brazil were reducing the sizes of their broadsheets in response to increased newsprint costs and their readers' need for a more convenient newspaper size. The idea that a reformatting of a newspaper could be so well-accepted by readers and yet mean millions in savings captured the imagination of INQUIRER's top executives.

Then and now, the INQUIRER, like the rest of the Philippine newspaper industry, was under intense financial pressure not just from high newsprint prices but from the continuing decline of the peso versus the US dollar. Although the INQUIRER continued to increase its advertising revenue, the increase in cost of its main raw material, imported paper, was simply outstripping the pace of revenue increase.

Coupled with the challenge of rising costs was the INQUIRER's firm commitment to continue investing in increasing readership nationwide. The installation of new printing presses in Cebu, Davao and Laguna is part of that commitment. However, the INQUIRER needed to make sure that its investments would be financially viable.

Options

The initial response to the challenges was to consider an increase in prices. Increasing INQUIRER's cover price to P20 per copy could arrest the decline in INQUIRER's net income. However, the senior editors and executives knew that this would be a risky decision. Even at P15 per copy, many readers were already complaining of the high cost. A P5 increase could possibly jeopardize that reading habit that the INQUIRER has painstakingly built among its readers.

Raising advertising prices was also considered. The INQUIRER usually increases its advertising rates by 10 percent annually but this was deemed inadequate considering the rise in paper costs was almost 30 percent between 1999 and 2000. Larger increases in ad rates could also cause loss in advertising market share.

Although plans were made to invest in new revenue sources like Inq7, INQUIRER's joint venture with GMA 7 into the Internet, the INQUIRER knew that a dramatic cost reduction program was the most urgent need. Of all the options the INQUIRER considered, the resizing of the paper presented the brightest hope. Although the paper width would be reduced by a mere 1 inch per page, the cost- savings estimated were in the tens of millions of pesos *annually*.

Risky

The option was not without risk. The initial fears included an exodus of readers because of a perceived loss in value. Another risk was that advertisers may feel short-changed by the slight reduction of their ads.

In November, 2000, management embarked on a long road to find out if the redesign was feasible and to determine what would be the most effective way to implement such a move. What followed was months of research, design, consultations with the top advertising agencies in the country, and even discussions with INQUIRER's most rabid critics.

First step

The first step was to get Lynett Villariba, INQUIRER's art director, to redesign the INQUIRER in a subtle manner. The redesign would ensure that the readers' reading experience would only be improved by the newspaper's new size. Villariba chose a new font that was more efficient but looked similar to the Inquirer's old font. ***(See story on Page F2)*** The result was a very readable font (it is taller but narrower) that results in a text loss of only 1 percent to 2 percent for an average sized article. In fact with many articles, no text loss would be evident.

The redesigned paper was then presented to the top advertising agencies for their comments. One ad agency staff took almost three minutes to realize that the paper had slimmed down. The change was deemed, almost unanimously, as refreshing, contemporary and convenient. Issues on the new size of print ads were raised but the key point was that the new print ad sizes remained just as effective as before the redesign.

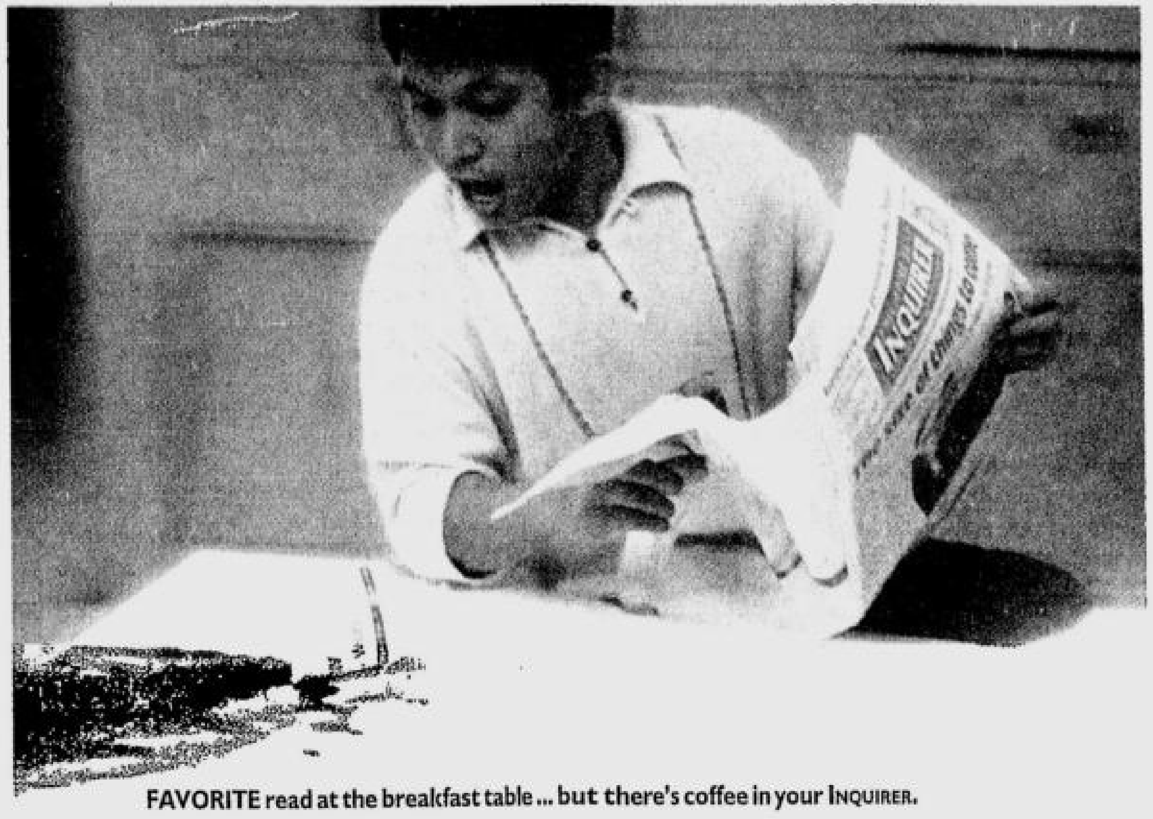
Positive response

Focused group discussions were then held with some of INQUIRER's hard-core readers. The responses were overwhelmingly positive. The new size was simply more convenient, and the fonts were judged very readable even among the older group of respondents. The clincher was when one reader commented, "I don't buy the INQUIRER because of its physical features but for its information and news. And that hasn't changed."

And so, after more than a year of careful study and design development, the INQUIRER is finally implementing this new size and design.

Last Jan. 25, 2002, the new Inquirer debuted. However, the move into the new size is not an overnight development. While some of its press machines are being re-tooled to produce the new size, readers can expect some sections to still appear in the old size while some may have slimmed down already. By March 15, 2002, all sections of the INQUIRER will appear in the new size and format.

INQUIRER may look a little different but it remains firmly committed to delivering the same fearless news, balanced news that Filipinos all over the world have known for the past 16 years.


FAVORITE read at the breakfast table ... but there's coffee in your INQUIRER.

BEFORE resizing: Edging out the love of your life.

Layout Version #2
"Hmmm. Maybe something floral."
Creative Director
"SUN GIRL" PRNT AD:FA2 11/02/01 2:45 AM

A great campaign should have great coverage, meaning you can stretch one good idea with a variety of ads and placements. By placing your ad in digital form directly in the newspaper, Lexmedia's Digital Ad Delivery Service saves you the money to do just that. Now you can have more versions and placements at a price that won't stretch your budget.

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Slim is the way to go!

Wide is wild!

Stop press; retool, reset

By Dennis Valdes
EVP, FEP Printing Corp.

AS YOU pick up your Inquirer every morning, going through the stories over breakfast, do you ever stop to wonder how that newspaper was printed? The newspaper is truly a challenge to produce. Every day, it is a different product—different stories, different colors, different pages, different sections.

Just about the only thing constant with the Inquirer is its size. At least until last Friday, January 25, 2002, that is. On that y, the Inquirer went to a narrower form a new standard size gaining popularity wc .wide.

The switch to the new size has been planned for over a year. For a printing company like FEP, it is not a simple task. We print the Inquirer in Makati, Cebu and Davao (and will soon open a fourth printing site in Mamplasan, Laguna). Machines in all these locations will need to be reset. As much as we wish we could just change paper as easily as you would in your photocopier, our large newspaper printing presses are highly specialized and need to be recalibrated for the new size.

Aside from the presses, we also need to work with our newsprint suppliers for them to give us new sizes of paper. Three local suppliers produce the newsprint used to print the Inquirer. Each of these paper mills was informed of the switchover last year and has been working on their own machines to produce narrower newsprint rolls aside from their usual stock.

Our inventories of newsprint, printing plates and some other supplies will need to change as well. Already our production managers have been minimizing our stocks of the old newsprint rolls and stocking up on the new sizes. As you might expect, it was virtually impossible for us to finish all the old stock on Jan. 24 and then start using the new stock completely the next day.

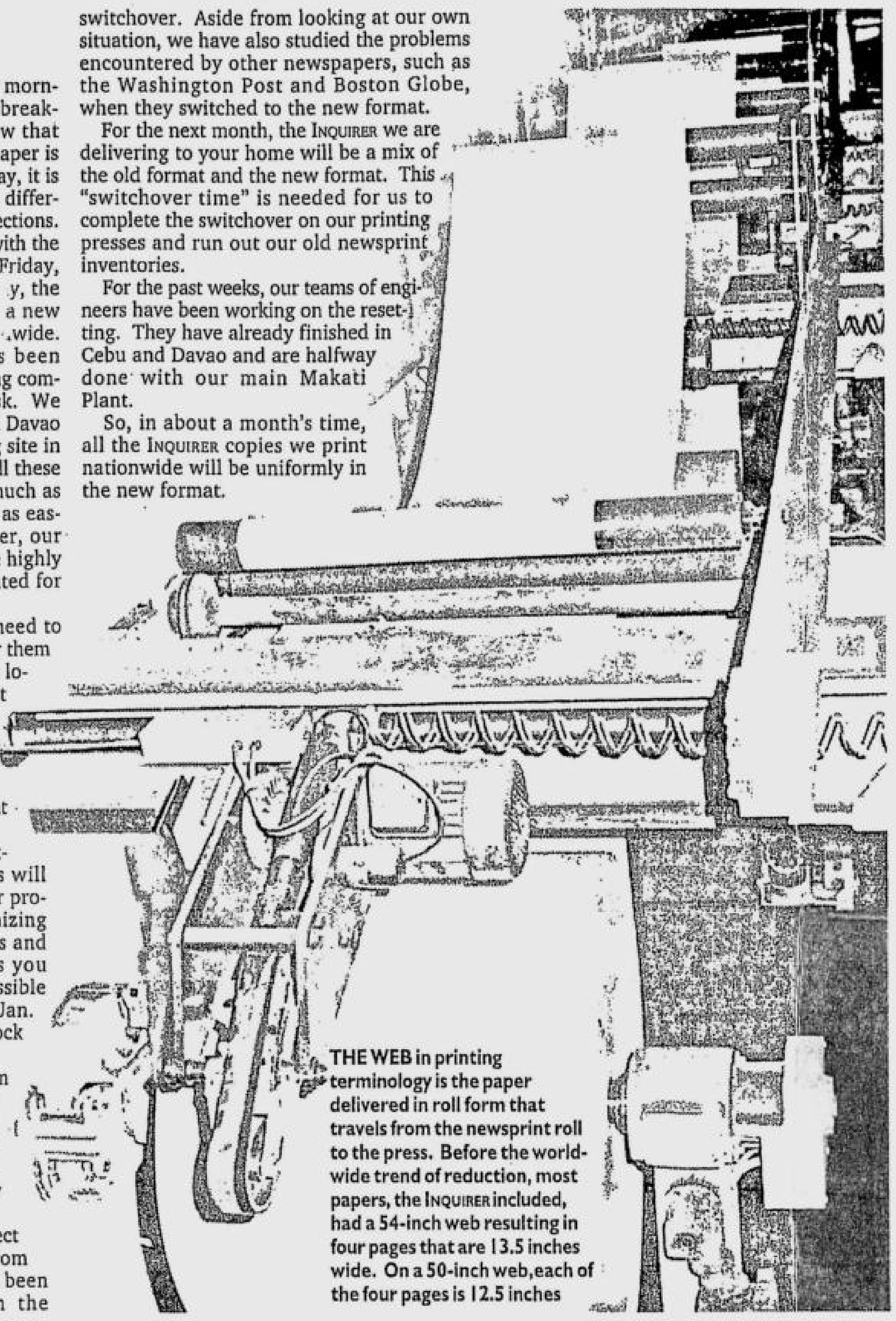
When you throw in the problem that the Inquirer is always a different number of pages each day—and therefore uses a different quantity of newsprint and plates—you can just imagine how harassed our inventory managers are at the moment.

As you can see, such a large project takes time and planning. Teams from the Inquirer and FEP Printing have been working together for a year on the switchover. Aside from looking at our own situation, we have also studied the problems encountered by other newspapers, such as the Washington Post and Boston Globe, when they switched to the new format.

For the next month, the Inquirer we are delivering to your home will be a mix of the old format and the new format. This "switchover time" is needed for us to complete the switchover on our printing presses and run out our old newsprint inventories.

For the past weeks, our teams of engineers have been working on the resetting. They have already finished in Cebu and Davao and are halfway done with our main Makati Plant.

So, in about a month's time, all the Inquirer copies we print nationwide will be uniformly in the new format.



THE WEB in printing terminology is the paper delivered in roll form that travels from the newsprint roll to the press. Before the worldwide trend of reduction, most papers, the Inquirer included, had a 54-inch web resulting in four pages that are 13.5 inches wide. On a 50-inch web, each of the four pages is 12.5 inches

FAT FACTS

Compiled by Chona Galang, Ray Leyesa and Michael Cucio
PDI Research

- THE IDEA to resize was first encountered by FEP EVP and PDI board member Dennis Valdes, in October 2000. He was reading an industry newsletter on innovations in publishing. The same issue of the publication also carried an article on free newspapers in Europe which was also the origin of the idea for Libre. That particular issue is probably worth tens of millions of pesos in terms of business ideas for PDI. That also proves the value of reading.

Estrada crony Dichaves, family flee to HK

INQUIRER

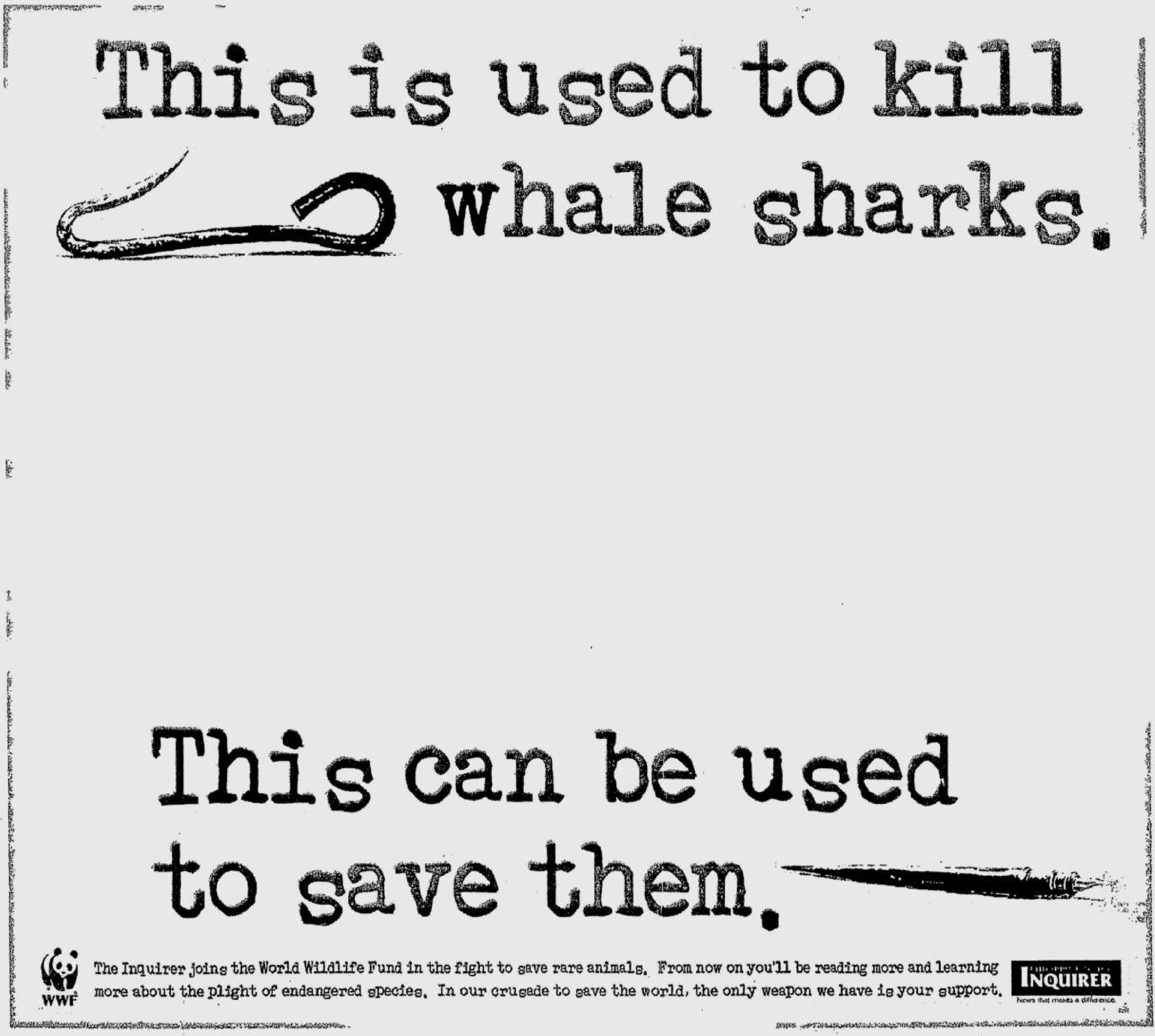
TIME'S UP FOR ERAP

Emissaries negotiating for President's exit

AFP deals fatal blow to Erap presidency

Lonely night at the Palace

- A typical edition of the Inquirer contains an average of 146 headlines, 118 pictures, drawings and graphs and 68,478 words (an average novel contains about 100,000 words).
- The Inquirer annually uses about 24,600 metric tons of newsprint and 100 percent of the fiber used to make that newsprint comes from recycled paper.
- The Inquirer annually uses about 543,328 kilos of ink (all colors). The ink used is the environmentally friendly, soya oil-based type, which can be acquired either locally or from abroad. It is also a non-heatset web type with low rub formulation, which is the primary reason the ink does not dirty your hands when you are reading the Inquirer.
- In the pilot run of PDI's 3-month "New Paper" Drive last year, it collected over 96,000 kilos of old newspapers and tabloids from more than 200 participating institutions, organizations, parishes and households in Metro Manila. The old newspapers collected translate to a saving of about 1,800 trees in our country's fast diminishing rainforests. The drive is now a four-month yearly activity of PDI. This year's "New Paper" Drive will start on June 9, World Ecology Day, and will last till Sept. 30, 2002


This is used to kill whale sharks.
This can be used to save them.
WWF
INQUIRER
News that makes a difference.

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

There's more of me to love!

It's a slimmer world

By Minerva Generalao
Chief, Inquirer Research

AT LEAST 300 papers have now reduced their width by an inch according to an estimate by The Newspapers Association of America (NAA). The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Boston Globe, Cleveland Plain Dealers, The Chicago Tribune and Miami Herald are some of the biggest newspapers that have moved to a narrower page.

An NAA survey shows that as of April 23, 2001, 75 percent of newspapers in Canada and the United States have made or are making the change, with 41 percent of newspapers already converted to the new size; 12 percent committed and 23 considering the switch.

Only 25 percent are not considering making the shift.

This new newspaper industry norm is often called reducing to 50-inch web.

The web, in printing terminology, is the paper delivered in roll form that travels from the newsprint roll to the press. On a regular double-wide press, the web is the width of four pages that is printed on, folded and cut into the newspaper pages.

Before the change, most papers had a 54-inch-wide web resulting in four pages that are 13.5 inches wide. On a 50-inch web, each of the four pages is 12:5 inches, an inch narrower. Thus, the reduction by one-inch per page is often called in the newspaper industry as the change to 50-inch web.

Why go narrower

The move to a narrower page has been mainly a respond to higher newsprint prices.

"It was a money-saving measure dictated by our corporate parent, Knight Ridder," Lauri Hoppi of Pioneer Press said in her reply to e-mailed questions sent by Inquirer Research.

The Minneapolis-based Pioneer Press, a member of the San Jose California-based Knight Ridder empire, the second-largest newspaper company in the United States, reduced its width last July.

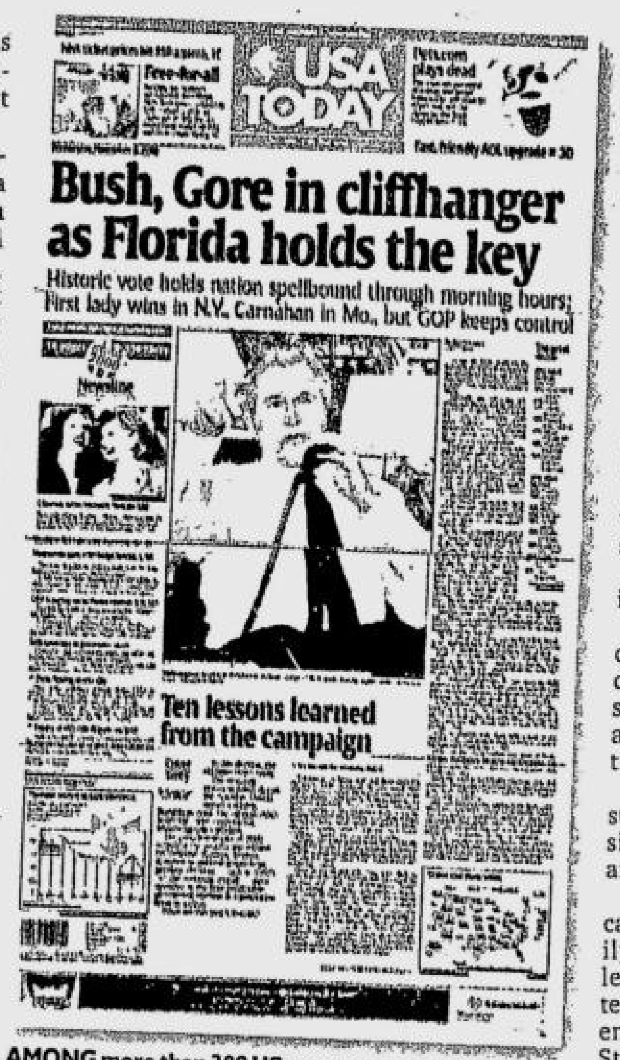
The Knight Ridder, the Virginia-based Gannett Co., Davenport-Iowa-based Lee Enterprises and the Media News Group in Denver are just some of the newspaper chains that have ordered all their member. newspapers to reduce size.

The Washington Post was not the first to get smaller, but it was the first US big-city daily to do so in 1997. It shrank by an inch in width (to 12.5 inches) and by an inch and nine-sixteenth in length (to 22 inches). Multiplied by the Post's circulation of about 800,000, it meant much less newsprint and ink, in "millions of dollars."

Hoppi from Pioneer Press also said, "Another incentive was that our competitor, the Star-Tribune, converted to the narrower web."

Pioneer Press' strong competitor, the Star Tribune, also cited economics and the need to be competitive as reasons to go smaller.

In a news release before it made the change last March 5, Star Tribune said that it wanted "to stay consistent with other newspapers to make it easier for advertisers to design multi-city ads."


USA TODAY
Bush, Gore in cliffhanger as Florida holds the key
Historic vote holds nation spellbound through morning hours; First lady wins in N.Y., Carnahan in Mo., but GOP keeps control
Ten lessons learned from the campaign

AMONG more than 300 US newspapers that have reduced their width by an inch, according to estimates of the Newspapers Assoication of America.

For Toronto Star, Canada's largest daily newspaper reaching more than 2.5 million readers weekly, it was not a case of following the lead.

The Star was the first newspaper in North America to scale down in 1992. Still, reasons for making the change were not quite different from recent converts.

In his emailed response to the INQUIRER questions on their pioneering experience, Dan Sellar, the ombudsman of The Toronto Star, recalled that on its 100th year in the newspaper business in 1992, the Star installed new offset presses with extended capacity for the use of full color up to 48 pages.

"As part of that decision, then publisher, David Jolley studied alternate page sizes. Many formats were studied, but focus groups commissioned by the paper heavily favored a more compact size," Sellar said.

But how to go about it?

Sellar said, "Readers didn't want The Star to downsize to a tabloid, since our mission is to be a quality, mass-circulation paper."

The Star decided instead to reduce the page size by about 15 percent and go narrower.

"The width of a page can be adjusted more easily on presses than the length. The length is determined by the circumference of the rollers, so The Star's decision was an extremely important one," Stellar added.

But the choice was not only because of mechanical and technical considerations.

Sellar said, "There were a couple of factors involved in the decision. The publisher wanted to make the paper more reader-friendly for customers who used the subways and GO Transit trains. A narrower, shallower page indeed made it easier to handle in cramped quarters."

Newsprint prices

Cost was also a factor for Toronto Star, but not as a hindsight response. "The publisher anticipated a steep rise in newsprint prices, and saved a large amount of money by adopting the more compact format, which many other papers copied during the '90s as newsprint prices soared," Sellar added.

Newsprint prices soared from $440 per metric ton in 1992 to $658 per metric ton in 1995. They went down to about $546 per metric ton in 1998 but averaged $600 per metric ton by 2000.

With newsprint prices accounting for a big portion of cost, most newspapers adopted cost-reducing measures. The other options available were to increase cover prize, sell or go down.

To save on costs, a newspaper executive said that the choice boiled down to whether to reduce the paper or to reduce the number of reporters who write the stories. For most, to go slim was the way to go. On paper, that is as in practice, newspapers hesitated.

The convertion among other things would entail added costs to retool the presses. While most of the Canadian newspapers have made the shift five years ago, the bandwagon in the United States happened more recently.

According to an American Press Institute report, the rush was on for newspaper publishers after William Dean Singleton, president of MediaNews Group, reported in June 1999 that his newspapers, including the Denver Post which reduced page size in 1996, had saved $30 million in four years after making the change.

The Washington Post
New Players On an Old Stage
Andersen Officials Grilled on Shredding
U.S. Forces Raid Taliban Compounds
Campaign Bill Heads For a Vote In House
School Bus Scare Finds Safety
Greenspan Doubts Need for Tax Cuts
American Troops Navigate Web of Afghan Rivalries
American Taliban Suspect Appears in Alexandria Court

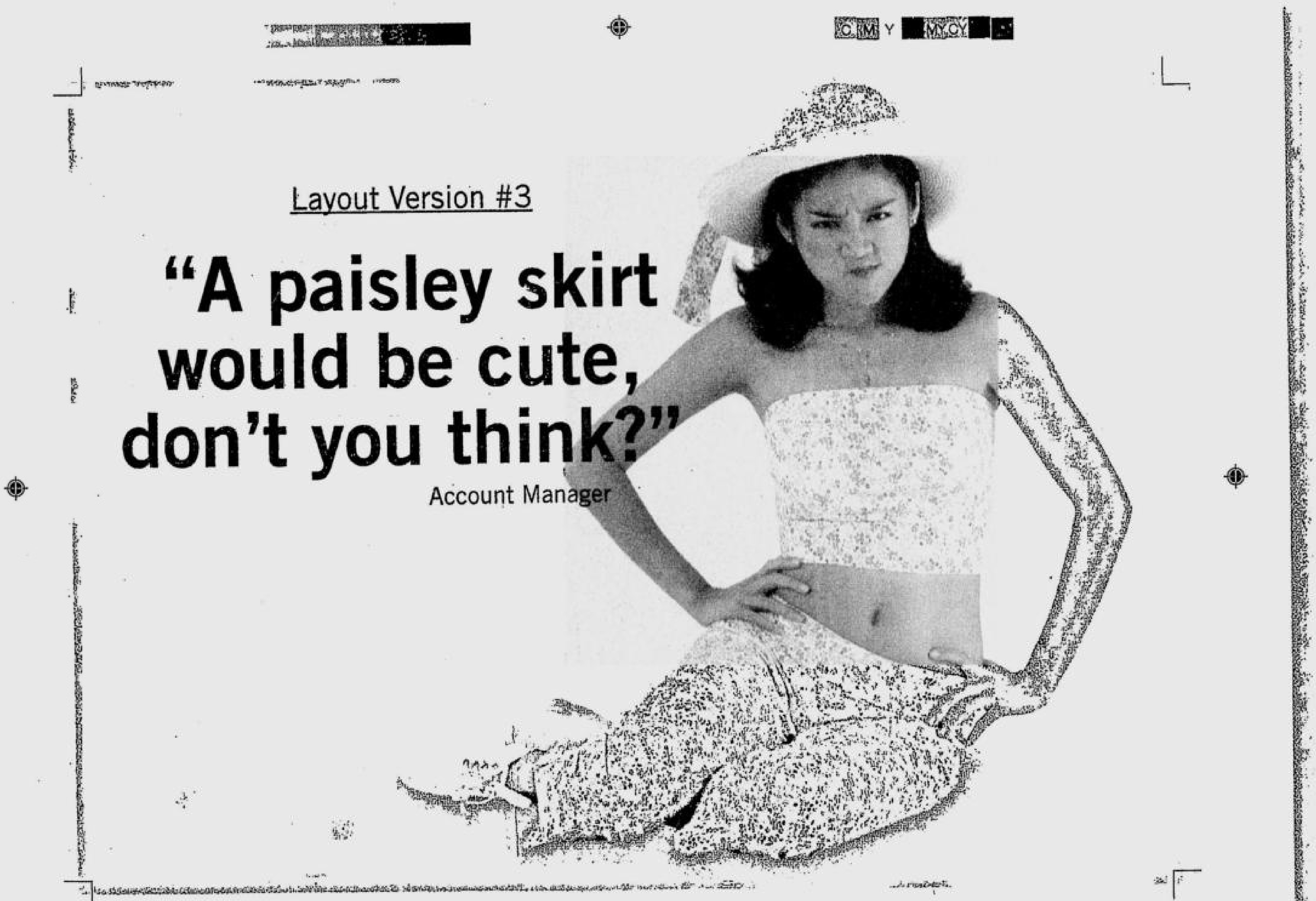
THE FIRST US big city daily to resize, the Post shrunk by an inch in width to 12.5 inches and in length to 22 inches.

Trimming the pages became a must with the trimming of costs. And the Denver Post experience showed that the recovery period for added costs would be short and quick.

But with much at stake, most newspapers took time to prepare for the change.

For the Los Angeles Times, it took about year to complete the shift. It was on Sept. 18, 1998, that the Times announced plans to freeze hiring and reduce newspaper page by an inch as a cost-saving measure. It was six months later, on March 1999, that the first Times press converted to a 50-inch web began printing newspapers at their Orange country plant.

It was more than a year later, on Oct. 23, 1999, that the Times completed the conversion from a 54-inch web to a 50-inch web of all its 16 presses at the Olympic, Orange Country and


C M Y MY CY
Layout Version #3
"A paisley skirt would be cute, don't you think?"
Account Manager
C M K
"SUN GIRL" PRNT AD:FA3 11/02/01 3:00 AM

Take a look at the results. Then adapt. Lexmedia's Digital Ad Delivery Service shows you proofs on the actual newsprint, so you're sure that what you see is what you get. And if you're still not satisfied, changes can be made in just minutes - digitally, without stripping. Or color separating. With Lexmedia, you can afford to change for the better.

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Resized, REDESIGNED, *Rebirth*

Less is more!

Trimming the pages became a must with the trimming of costs. The width of a page can be adjusted more easily on presses than the length

San Fernando plants, and turned out one-inch narrower papers throughout its market.

For the Boston Globe and Fort Worth Texas-based Star-Telegram, the conversion was also staggered. The Boston Globe had a nine-month retooling of their presses. After the first press had been converted, they begun producing a narrower printing area on all their presses. But copies off the presses that have not yet been retooled had more white space along the edges when the Globe started to come up with slightly narrower pages on February 2000.

Star-Telegram, on the other hand, started the shift on March 5 last year. Its Classified advertising sections were the first to be printed as 50-inch-wide image on their 54-inch web paper, and for a few weeks the margins in the Classified section were slightly wider. A month and a half later, the news sections began to convert to the new one inch narrower image size.

The physical conversion of the Star-Telegram's presses to accommodate the new page size began in May. The presses' conversion was completed and the image area and the paper area were matched on May 17. It took them two and half months to complete the process and make all the margins back to normal.

Not just tech issue

For most papers that converted, the planning was not limited to the conversion of the presses. It was not simply a "tech" issue. Many saw the slimmer size as an opportunity for a new look and better content. A redesign came with the reduction.

"We decided to redesign at the same time because we hadn't redesigned for about 10 years. A wholesale change seemed necessary, especially to find fonts that would work in narrower column widths and that would allow us to make up for loss of news hole," Lauri Hoppi, senior editor for visuals, who led the redesign at the Pioneer Press, told the INQUIRER in her emailed answers to questions on how they did it.

Pioneer Press assembled a team of people from the pressroom, advertising, marketing, pre-press and the newsroom to start planning for the conversion a year in advance. Plans were in the work for months before the actual changeover to make the process go with less kinks.

"By doing that, I think we anticipated many problems and were able to communicate the changes to advertisers well ahead of time to minimize their concerns," Hoppi said.

In an NAA report posted at its Web page, Tom Callinan, editor and vice president of the Democrat and Chronicle in Rochester, N.Y. said that getting the support of the staff was essential.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

NOT OVER

THE CONVERSION was staggered starting with its Classified adveritsing sections.

"The web reduction brought a need for considerable change to a news staff whose culture is resistant to change," he said.

With the motto, "people support what they help create," staffers were invited into the process through an open-forum board where they could lodge their concerns.

Dennis Floss, the presentation editor, became the news liaison and project leader. He established several committees that took up big and small concerns such as total newspaper integration of news, advertising and production and consistent labeling of standing elements.

Floss modified the designs based on staff reactions during small informational sessions.

A Maine-based designer said that a challenge for a 50-inch web is working more vertically with a combination of horizontals. He said that when everything has to be scaled down, the use of visuals is an issue if you layer the news. It means a testier balance of photos, layering and text, and the need to keep layering short and snappy.

Keep it light and airy

Times Daily in Florence, Alabama tried to keep things "light and airy so the page would not close in visually," Mary Peskin from the New York Times Regional Newspaper Group, said in a members forum by the American Press Institute.

She also said, "We tried to keep contrast so that some background things like data, bylines, cutlines, and briefs were space efficient and the big, important things like centerpieces popped with larger headlines and extra white space."

USA Today came up with more wide type and fewer stories on Page One after it converted.

As part of their redesign Hoppi said that Pioneer Press also installed a new pagination system during the whole redesign and press conversion.

The redesign was not just geared for cosmetics. It was meant to have more for less.

With less news hole, the page reduction was an opportunity to reexamine every piece of editorial content and determine its relative value to the reader.

Tony Majeri, senior editor of The Chicago Tribune which also opted to redesign when it went narrower, advocated for content audit.

In an American Press Institute report on design considerations of the 50-inch, he said, "We're in the business of content, and we should scrutinize our text, our tabular matter, our visuals and our typography with that in mind."

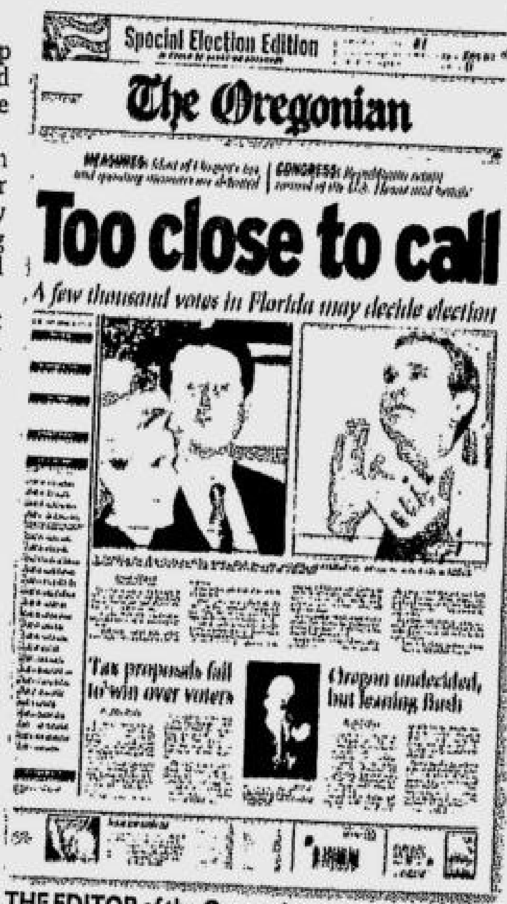
In another report on the 50-inch web change posted at the ASNE Web page, Kathy Silverberg of the TimesDaily in Florence, Alabama said that the conversion is an opportunity "to produce an even better news report in a reduced space."

Tighter writing

In the same report, an editor of the Oregonian said that readers have benefitted by the "necessity of tighter writing."

To make their stories more reader-friendly, the Globe-Gazette in Mason city in Iowa, decided "to employ editorial restraint."

In an NAA report, news editor Bob Steeson said that reporters have to "write concisely as possible." Reporters were told that "if you can say it in 10 inches, don't use 12."



Special Election Edition

The Oregonian

Too close to call

A few thousand votes in Florida may decide election

Tax proposals fail to win over voters

Oregon undecided, but leaning Bush

THE EDITOR of the Oregonian said that readers have benefitted by the "necessity of tighter writing."

The Iowa-based Des Moines Register, in its Frequently Asked Questions on how much the change in size would affect the amount of news a reader gets said that by redesigning standing art elements such as section nameplates, page labels, and proportionally sizing everything from headlines to photos, they have offset much of the space reduction.

It also said that the change to a new "Imperial" family of type, in all our stories packs more words per inch yet actually is more readable than the formerly used type. Lower-case letters are larger, and the quality printing of our new presses also may play a role in making the words look larger.

Other newspapers like the Boston Globe and the Los Angeles Times made the mechanical switch first and worked out the design details later. Others, like the USA Today, have redesigned while awaiting the mechanical transformation.

Non-event for readers

Reader feedback on the actual width change has been minimal. Research in several markets even indicates that most readers prefer the new size.

Sellar of Toronto Star recalled their experience when they made the conversion 10 years ago.

He said, "To my knowledge, as The Star's ombudsman for all but one year since the new presses were installed, readers have never complained about the smaller page. From the outset, quite a few said they liked the new format. I would say, however, that the new presses have been even more popular with readers because they deliver more pages in color using a four-color system."

Hoppi said, "People who have called about it have usually said they like the smaller size, that it's more convenient and easier to handle."

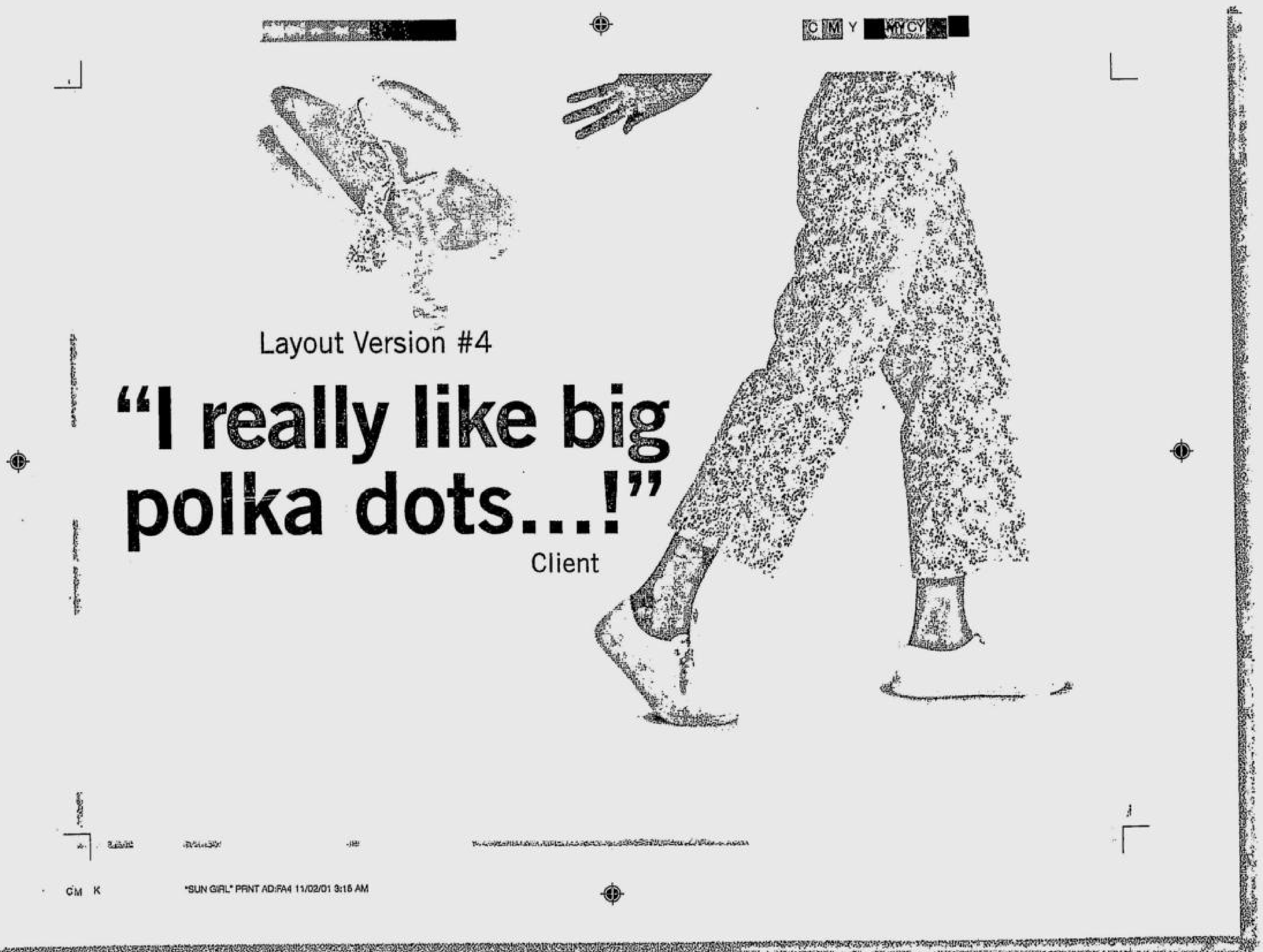
Pioneer Press, however, had more feed on their redesign.

"But it was mixed between negative and positive, and in the greater scheme of things the reaction was not as overwhelming as some other newspaper redesigns have been," Hoppi added.

In Washington, D.C., readers have complained of press roller marks on pages as the Post did not reduce the width on their presses far enough.

But in the main, editors elsewhere have found that readers like the new size and the new look.

Hoppi said that careful planning and coordination made it all possible. Their changeover last July went relatively smoothly. "We didn't miss a deadline."


Layout Version #4
"I really like big polka dots...!"
Client
CM K
"SUN GIRL" PRNT AD:FA4 11/02/01 3:15 AM

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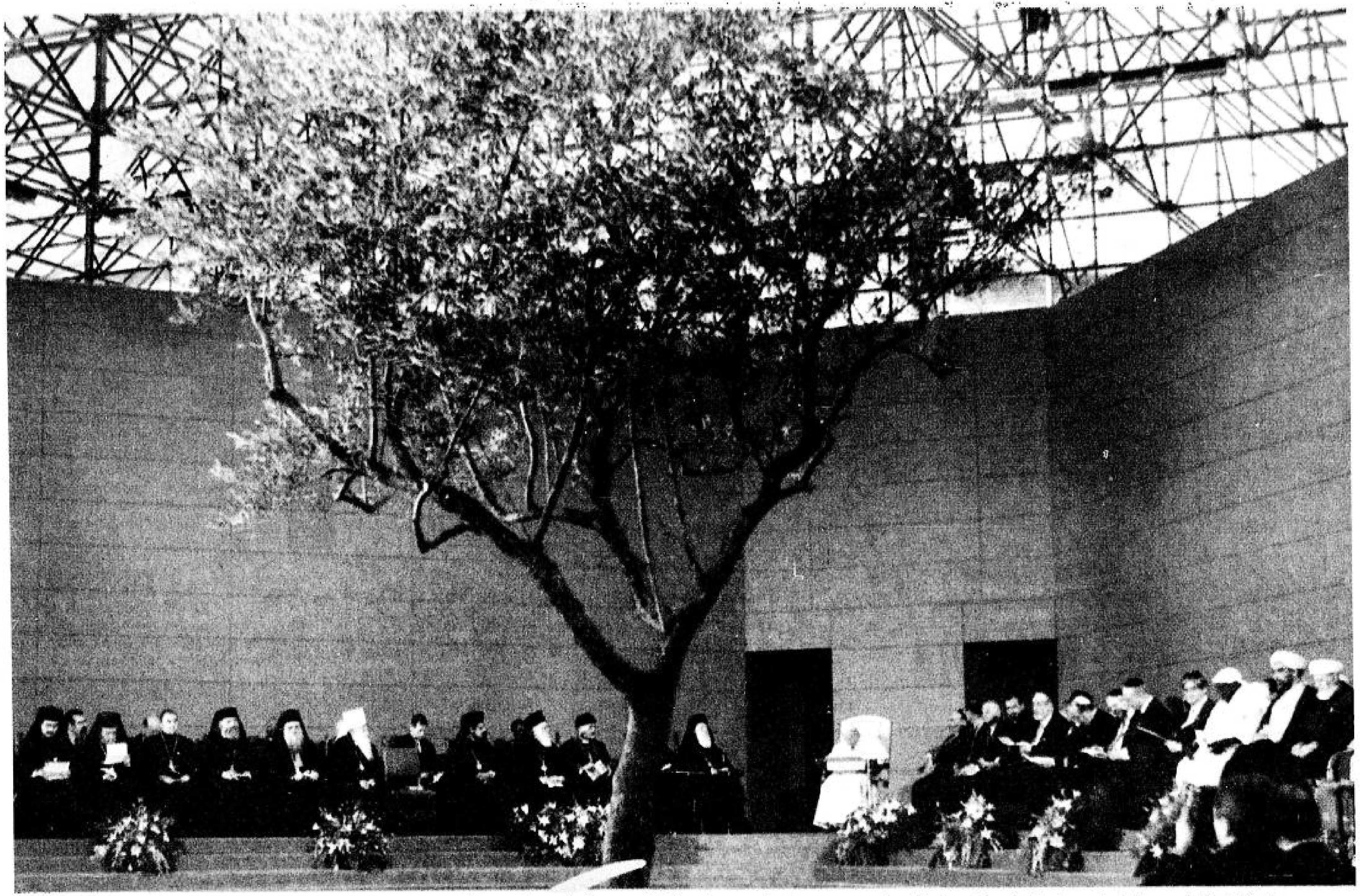


TREE OF PEACE: Pope John Paul II leads religious leaders of many faiths on Thursday in prayerful rites for peace in the company of an olive tree they dubbed a symbol of peace in Assisi, Italy.

Saving trees every day

By Celine R. Madamba

THE INQUIRER will save up to 2,178 trees every year or six trees everyday with its size reduction of 6.3 percent.

The environment has always been a favorite cause of the INQUIRER. Be it the preservation of endangered species, the clean-up of the Pasig River, solid waste management, or the promotion of clean air.

In October last year, the Catholic Mass Media Awards lauded the "socially conscious use" of the publication's reach and power for the promotion of environmental preservation, citing its environmental campaigns and stories.

While the INQUIRER's involvement in environmental preservation can be traced to its founding years, it played a significant role in the 1990s when it exposed the systematic slaughter of whale sharks, or *butanding*, in the country. The public awareness led not only to the enactment of local ordinances prohibiting whale shark fishing, transport and sale but also to numerous conservation projects in the community.

Stepping beyond news coverage into direct social action, the INQUIRER has been a consistent supporter of environmental movements and organizations. Last year, it provided more than P2 million worth of in-kind assistance to groups such as the Clean and Green Foundation, Piso Para Sa Pasig, Lakbay Tribo, Tour of the Fireflies, and the World Wildlife Fund Philippines (WWF).

Newsprint reduction plus annual paper recycling drive contribute to forest preservation

As a corporate partner of WWF, it engaged in two advertising campaigns called "Wildlife Alive" and "Fish for Survival" aimed at protecting our country's marine wildlife. At present, the INQUIRER holds a special distinction for being the only media institution in the country to forge a corporate partnership with WWF.

Last year, the INQUIRER spearheaded its own recycling campaign with the help of 200 institutions, organizations, parishes, schools, and households in Metro Manila. Its "New Paper" drive collected more than 96,000 kilos of old newspapers and tabloids in just three months.

With less than six hectares of rainforest left in the country and a yearly consumption of over 19,000 tons of newsprint by local newspaper and tabloids, the drive is one of the INQUIRER's key contributions to environmental preservation. Another is its continued use of 100-percent recycled newsprint and soy-based ink, both of which reduce environmental pollutants and help promote a cleaner and safer environment.

This reduction in newsprint, together with an annual newspaper recycling drive, aims to reduce the use of newsprint and ensure the sustainability of our rainforests.

Complementing hard news with stories that inspire positive action has been a trademark of the INQUIRER since its early years. Through direct involvement, however, the INQUIRER aims to take this commitment one step further by making a difference where it truly matters. Beyond the page and into our lives.

They were gushing, sort of, but wanted more

By Minerva Generalao
and Chona Galang
PDI Research

FAT or slim, it does not matter. Readers say they will still read the INQUIRER.

"Daily INQUIRER is part of my breakfast."

"I have been a reader of the INQUIRER since day one. I have developed a liking for it."

"If I can't read the INQUIRER, I don't feel right. You see, I have come to regard the INQUIRER as one of the Philippine institutions just like the Catholic Church, the fiestas, the Christmas season. The INQUIRER is a guardian of democracy. If there is anything wrong in Philippine democracy, the INQUIRER will be the first to trumpet it."

Thus, declared three readers on the importance of the INQUIRER for them during a focus group (FGD) discussion conducted last April. The FGD aimed to get the views of the INQUIRER readers on what they like and dislike about the INQUIRER. It was conducted to listen and learn from readers who may be called "hard-core"—they included those who took the time to write to the INQUIRER and in the process gave their praise, corrections, suggestions or criticisms. The nine FGD participants were the first batch of readers sounded off about the INQUIRER's plans to redesign.

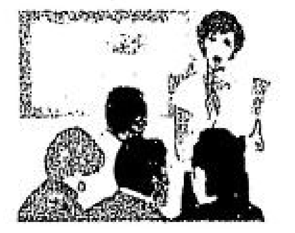
The FGD participants came from different areas in Metro Manila and gave different points of view but all gave quick answers when asked what they liked about the INQUIRER.

The details make the difference, according to three participants.

One said the other newspapers may give the same news but he "enjoys the INQUIRER" as it is not "clinical" nor just a parrot of "what comes to them like a press relations company."

"I enjoy more the bias of the INQUIRER," he said.

Another said, "I like the INQUIRER in the sense that it reflects my mindset."



- "Physically manageable and readable"
- "(It's Ok) as long as the quality remains in the contents."

And, what is his mindset?

"I'm developmental and likes seeing what's behind the scenes. I like the way your newspaper brings it out and the way your editors make comments. So, I'm not just being informed. I am also enjoying it."

A graduate of AIM, who has been a reader of the INQUIRER for the past 10 years, said he liked best the business pages.

"You have the best layout on the daily report on stock market and the best analytical information. They are much superior compared to any other newspaper and very good."

The front page is the favorite of a government employee along with three other participants. He said, "Your front page is the most attractive along with your letter section and the opinion pages."

A lawyer who reads the INQUIRER seven days a week for more than 10 years now said he also likes the opinion pages. He said, "You have the best columnists in the Business Section:"

Uncluttered

And what does a twenty-something BS Management Information System graduate from the Ateneo like best? He said that aside from the content, the layout is the best.

"It is uncluttered, where you are able to present news articles straight to the point and not vague like other newspapers."

It's different strokes for different folks. But most participants commented on the quality of the reports and the way they were written. An often-repeated description was "fearless."

"I have been reading the INQUIRER from day one because I found it does not succumb to pressure from the powers that be. In the days of Marcos you went ahead publishing articles against him and that was something I didn't find in the other newspapers," another lawyer FGD participant said.

A mechanical engineer from Las Piñas said, "I like the way the INQUIRER pursues issues and sticks to it tenaciously. It is able to bring out things that otherwise we would not hear elsewhere in a manner that generates interest."

"All together the INQUIRER deserves to be complemented for calling a spade, a spade," a retired senior citizen said.

Wish list

Did the FGD participants sound gushing? Sort of. But they proved to be a discerning and critical group when they gave equally quick answers when asked what they do not like in the INQUIRER. More accurately, they gave a long wish list.

The young IT graduate said he was disappointed the Infotech reports come only once a week and still the stories are not sufficient enough.

Two participants who have read the INQUIRER for at least 10 years wanted a more global perspective. One preferred for what he called "a more cosmopolitan national or international coverage." The other wished for more coverage of foreign news and of international sports like boxing, swimming and American football.

Two participants also said they would like to read more feature articles on science, religion, history, medicine, music and education.

The other participants listed what they want less in the INQUIRER: less space for crime stories in the front page "unless they involve prominent people" and less space to columnists "so they will write better to the point and come out with solid articles."

Another participant said he hopes for less sections "dealing with personalities and societies" and to do away with the other sections that are "superfluous."

Stressing the need to improve the supplements, he said "I often find them frivolous and not worth reading."

Cut down

Four participants commented on the long stories. The advice: cut them down to make them "quality articles." Better still, shorten the news stories on page one "to get the meat of the stories" and have accompanying long feature stories in the inside pages.

Another participant mentioned of an incident where a source was misquoted, while another said he did not like reports where the source was not identified.

The comments of the FGD participants were not as many and varied when they were presented with a mock-up of a redesigned INQUIRER.

The FGD participants did not notice the changes at first. "The difference (in size) is not really great."

The moderator had to point out that this time, the INQUIRER is slimmer and has a different font type for the headlines and body text among others.

The common comments on the redesigned INQUIRER were "more attractive," "basically more manageable" and "handy."

Participants also commented on readability with the new font types. One said, "The prints are clear I hope you will maintain the same because for citizens who have failing eyesight it is difficult to read."

"It's clear enough I don't have to use my glasses," said another.

Others saw advantages and the portent of better things to come.

"This will force the editors to be very selective of what they will put on the front page and I hope the INQUIRER can maintain the second front page."

"With the reduced size, you'll be forced to be more selective with the news that would be published."

"More condensed news."

"Instead of reading two paragraphs it would be one paragraph and we get the same information."

A seemingly true-blooded INQUIRER reader predicted, "Majority of the people would think this to be an innovation only a leading newspaper would come up with."

One participant stressed, "I don't buy a newspaper for its physical look but for the information it gives."

Another said, "I won't mind the change as long as the quality of the contents remains the same."

Another was more categorical. He said that concerns of poor reception of a redesigned INQUIRER were "without basis."

"Reading a newspaper is a lifetime habit and you cannot give up reading it simply because the publisher changes its design."

You may e-mail your feedback on the INQUIRER *redesign at redesignfeedback@inquirer.com.ph*

THE INQUIRER thanks comediennes Marissa Sanchez (above) and Ai Ai de las Alas for helping to define for our readers in such an attractive way the difference between a broad chick and a sleek dame.

Resized, REDESIGNED, *Rebirth*

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- With good supervisory/management skills
- Aggressive, flexible, dynamic, and with good communication and interpersonal skills
- Will also be responsible for capacity, coverage and quality planning
- Graduate of Engineering or Business course
- At least 3 years related experience in the same capacity
- Experience in ERP (SAP R/3 Procurement Module) would be an advantage

SENIOR ENGINEER (Code: LMSG-SR. ENG.)
- Must be a licensed professional Mechanical Engineer
- Has at least three years extensive experience in mechanical works
- Has a valid driver's license
- Computer literate
- Experienced in design and investigation aspect on complex facilities is an advantage

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR (Code: DBA)
- A graduate of Computer Science, Engineering, Math or ECE
- Possesses 1-2 year work experience in Dbase Administration & Security, Dbase Monitoring & Performance Fine Tuning Capacity, Planning RDBMS Environment, and SQL Scripts & Optimization, Unix for HP / SUN / DIGITAL / NT, Distributed Computing Environment and Windows Application / Analysis
- With 2 –3 years experience in Sybase dbase administration ver 11.5
- Has Supported a 7x24 hr. mission critical environment
- Working knowledge in Oracle Informix a plus factor
- With excellent analytical and interpersonal skills, & willing to work on extended hours

NETWORK SPECIALIST (Code: ISG-NS)
- A degree in BS ECE, Computer Engineer or equivalent
- With minimum of 3 years work experience in data network and Server Administration
- Experience in LAN / WAN such as Ethernet, Gigabit Ethernet, TCP / IP, routers, switches
- Good knowledge on OS such as NT4, Windows 2000 Advance Server, Unix (HP/UX)
- Good knowledge of routing and application protocol such as SMTP, BGP4
- Knowledge on Server such as e-mail server, Radius Server, Media Server; Firewall configuration set-up and administration.
- Proficient in LAN/WAN technology, NT Server Administration
- Perform Systems/Server administration and network performance tuning
- Capable to stage product evaluation and system integration requirements

PURCHASING ENGINEER (Code: LMSG-PE)
- Graduate of any Engineering courses
- At least 3 years related experience in a TELCO or similar industry
- Experience in ERP (SAP R/3 Procurement Module) would be an advantage
- Knowledge in E-procurement is an advantage
- Must be a dept in documenting policies and procedures
- Knowledgeable in vendor relations/accreditation procedures
- Must be familiar with purchasing procedures
- Good command in written and oral communication
- Maintains contacts/ network with key suppliers

FACILITIES ENGINEER (Code: LMSG-FE)
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineer , preferably licensed
- Not more than 30 years old
- With at least three years experience in Facilities Maintenance in supervisory capacity
- Knowledgeable in air conditioning system operation and maintenance, power generating equipment /basic electrical system operation and maintenance
- Willing to be assigned in Batangas Province
- With driving skills

PRODUCT MANAGER (Code: FNG-PM)
- Graduate of B.S. Marketing or any related courses
- At least 2 years experience in brand management with revenue responsibilities
- Has successfully launched or sustained a brand / service in the market
- Exposure to advertising and co-marketing activities is an advantage

ASSOCIATE ENGINEER (Code: LMSG-AE)
- Graduate of BS Geodetic Engineering or related Engineering course with Jr. Geodetic Licensed/Licensed Civil Engineer
- At least 1 year experience in various engineering survey (relocation, topographic, subdivision)
- Has related experience in planning, estimating and construction management
- Knowledge in computer applications including AutoCAD
- Knowledgeable in Land Acquisition, right-of-way and other government permitting work.
- Knowledgeable in vendor relations/accreditation procedures
- Good command in written and oral communication

SR. SYSTEMS ANALYST (Code: SR.SA)
- Graduate of Computer Science or related course
- With experience in handling mediation device
- Network knowledge & experience on TCP/IP, ETAM, X.25
- Experienced in application development preferred
- Preferably with experience in Telecom

SENIOR COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS OFFICER (Code: HRG-SR. CBO)
- Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering/BS Statistics/BS Psychology or any related course
- With Human Resources background specifically Compensation and Benefits Research
- Knowledgeable in Productivity Improvement Tools
- With good analytical/mathematical/oral and written skills
- Computer literate

FRAUD & RISK MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (Code: FRS)
- Graduate of Electronics & Communications Engineering, Computer Science or a bachelor degree of similar discipline is preferred
- Preferably with working experience and/or knowledge on telecom fraud/risk management, revenue/quality assurance, network/process/system quality control
- Understanding of account management workflow (subscription, provisioning, billing and credit, complaints handling, audit and legal matters)
- With good grasp of technical information, networking of various telecoms services
- With high level of proficiency in computer applications; programming is a plus
- Good mathematical knowledge and analytical ability to manipulate and interpret statistics/information
- Ability for data research, with logical thought process and diagnostic /methodical actions
- Excellent oral communications and business/ technical writing
- Mature, self-motivated, flexible, trustworthy, a team player
- Can work under pressure and varying work schedule
- Good and pleasant interpersonal skills

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (Code: HRG-ICO)
- Graduate of AB Mass Communications or any related course
- At least 2 years experience in graphic design and print production
- At least two years experience on new media, specifically web development and knows working in a wired environment
- Knowledgeable in events management, desktop publishing and preparation and execution of communication plans
- Must be creative, achievement-motivated, goal setter, flexible, resourceful and enthusiastic

Interested applicants are requested to submit their Letter of Application & Resume with 2x2 picture and transcript of records:

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Due to the urgency of the requirement, interested applicants should submit their comprehensive resume and 2x2 photo and report for an initial interview.

ACA Franchise Group
ATTN: HRMD Manager
Human Resources Department
Rm. 2303-A West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Telephone no.: 687-5165 loc. 215 - 216

THE INTERNET COMPANY OF PLDT
infocom **The high-powered choice!**

We are inviting dynamic, highly driven, and competent individuals to fill the following positions and be part of the HIGH-POWERED TEAM:

ACCOUNT MANAGER (Corporate Sales)

- Female/Male; Graduate of a four-year course; With 2 to 3 years work experience in IT Sales; Service-oriented, resourceful, self-starter, and with excellent oral and written communication skills.

ACCOUNT MANAGER (Corporate Accounts Management)

- Female/Male; Graduate of a four-year course; With at least one (1) year work experience in a similar position, preferably in the IT industry; Service-oriented, a team player, excellent in inter-personal relations, and with excellent oral and written communication skills.

ACCOUNT MANAGER-CONSUMER (North Luzon)

- Female/Male; Graduate of a four-year Business, Management or Marketing course; With at least two (2) years experience in the same or similar capacity, preferably acquired in the Internet industry; With excellent oral and written communication skills; Highly motivated, with working knowledge in MS Office applications; Can work with minimal supervision, and willing to work extended hours.

INSTITUTIONAL SALES COORDINATOR

- Female/Male; Graduate of a four-year Business, Management, Economics or Marketing course; With at least two (2) years experience in sales and marketing, preferably in the Direct Sales industry; With excellent oral and written communication skills; Highly motivated, and can work with minimal supervision; Exposure in areas of IT and/or ISP is an advantage.

Interested applicants may send in their resumés with colored photo to:

The Human Resources (Recruitment)
INFOCOM Technologies, Inc.
31st Floor PLDT Tower II, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
E-mail: **jobs@info.com.ph**
(Please indicate position applied for in the subject line)

e-life infocom infocom NOW CABLE INTERNET

UNIVERSAL RIGHTFIELD PROPERTY HOLDINGS, INC.

MARKETING AND SALES

Which of these traits best describes you?

a. positive
b. highly-charged
c. poised to succeed
d. all of the above

If you answered letter d, are experienced in real estate sales, particularly condominiums, then we want YOU.

YOU will be involved in marketing prime ready to occupy, residential and office units built by *DM Consunji*, the country's premier construction company. Our business package includes:

- Monthly compensation
- Free training and orientation
- Commissions of up to 200,000 for a single transaction
- Other sales incentives

We are also open for broker accreditation (individual or group)

Send your resumé and photo to:

Universal Rightfield Property Holdings, Inc.
Unit 713-714 Globe Telecom Plaza II Building
Pioneer Highlands, Pioneer corner Madison Streets
Mandaluyong City

A dynamic company is inviting experienced and highly motivated Individuals with positive mental attitude and willing to grow with the company for the following key position:

AUDIT STAFF

- Male/Female, 22 to 26 years old
- Accounting graduate
- Must have experience in auditing liquidation of expenses/disbursements.

BOOKKEEPER

- Male/Female, between 22 to 28 years old
- Accounting graduate, CPA is preferred
- Computer literate

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Female, 23 to 30 years old
- Graduate of four years course preferably Secretarial
- Knowledgeable in Computer
- With 2-3 years related experience
- Proficient in oral and written communications
- Proficient in Shorthand writing

EDP-OFFICER

- Degree in computer science or related disciplines
- Knowledge in any SQL Database, Oracle, Interbase, SQL Server
- Knowledge in CRYSTAL report will be an advantage
- Matured and good communication skill and ability to interact with people at all levels.
- Experience working in MLM or Network Marketing Industry.

Please send your resumé to:

The General Manager
4th Floor, Edmark Building
No. 355 P. Tuazon Boulevard, corner
21st Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

Tel. No. 913-55-15 / 913-1324)
Email: edmark@info.com.ph

"WE ARE GROWING-2002"

"When the going gets TOUGH the TOUGH gets *going*"

With this phrase in mind and this years positive achievements of the group inspite of the prevailing economic condition, we want to prepare ourselves for the coming "TOUGH" but brighter outlook ahead.

A. Business Development Officer (code : BDO #01)

- Male,Female not more than 25 years old
  With irresistible personality.
- Willing to be trained - fast learner.

B. Sales & Mktg. Manager (code : ASI#01)

- Male,Female not more than 32 years of age.
- Strong willed, responsible and a born – LEADER.
- Proven impressive sales track record.
  Known & regarded as one of the best in the industry.

OTHER OPENINGS:

➤ (Interior) Design Consultant	(Code DSG#01)
➤ Admin. Assistant	(Code AA#01)
➤ Sales Assistant	(Code SA#01)

If you're **tough enough**, send or mail comprehensive resume & 2 pcs. 2x2 pictures at the address below :

ACCENT SYSTEMS, INC.
c/o MK-78 (code______)
Philippine Daily Inquirer G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City

Note: Indicate outside the envelope position code #.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The Community-Based Coastal Resource Management Resource Center (CBCRM RC), a non-government organization (NGO) involved in research, training, organizing and networking activities in support of the empowerment of coastal communities is looking for a

PROJECT COORDINATOR

For its
CBCRM Learning and Research Network in Asia Project

Key Responsibilities:

- Take the lead role in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project;
- Coordinate the project's daily operations and provide management support to project staff
- Oversee finance management, including leading in project development for fund raising
- Prepare timely narrative and financial donor reports
- Coordinate and liase with various individuals, groups and networks necessary for achieving project objectives

Qualifications:

- Minimum three years work experience (NGO experience is an advantage);
- Knowledge and understanding of coastal resource management and fishery issues in the Southeast Asia is preferred;.
- Experience in participatory research and training skills in popular education
- Proven leadership and project management skills, resourceful, organized and creative;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Filipino;
- Strong networking people management skills;
- Proven finance management skills;
- Ability to work under pressure, meet tight deadlines, and deliver agreed standards of performance;
- Good computer literacy skills (familiarity with MS Word, Excel and other MS Office applications); and,

Qualified applicants should submit application and complete curriculum vitae to:

The Center Coordinator
CBCRM-RC
Room 107 PSSC Building
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. (632) 920-3368, 927-9237

Emailed submissions are accepted at cbcrm_rc1@pacific.net.ph

Deadline of applications is on 15 February 2001. Only short-listed applicants will be informed of the interview date.

MANAGERIAL

PASIG-BASED LAW FIRM REQUIRES A

LITIGATION LAWYER

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Preferably a graduate of U.P. or Ateneo, with 3 to 5 years litigation experience (judicial and administrative).

Interested applicants may submit their resumés and transcript of records to:

c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
SM Box No. 200
5th Floor, Building B
SM-Megamall, EDSA
Mandaluyong City

Master Sports MIZUNO

a sporting goods company is in need of the ff:

• MERCHANDISE OFFICER

- at least 2 yrs of merchandising experience in a retail store on a supervisory capacity
- hardworking / responsible / w/ good fashion sense
- computer literate

• SALES CLERKS

- part time / full time
- at least college level / graduate
- computer literate
- fluent in English & Filipino
- experience in sales an advantage
- sport oriented also an advantage

applicants must submit their resume and most recent 2x2 picture to:

G/F West Tower Condominium, South Superhighway
cor. Hen. M.H. del Pilar St, Makati City
or any Mizuno outlet or email : mail@gopezcorp.com

We are a design consultancy firm with a client record of global and regional multinational companies. In line with our expansion program, we invite high-caliber and motivated professionals to join our team as:

DESIGN OFFICER

Job Code: DSG

He shall be responsible for the generation of concept and design solutions for a range of architecture and interior design projects. He shall oversee the production of various multi-media presentation materials: construction and detail working, and specifications. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

Male or female
College degree in Architecture or Interior Design
Professional Registration preferred
Exposure in interior architecture preferred
Design-related computer literacy and proficiency preferred
Design portfolio and at least 3 years experience required

PROJECT OFFICER

Job Code: PRO

He shall be responsible for the generation of specifications, quantity surveys and cost estimates. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

Male or female
College degree in Architecture or Engineering
Professional Registration preferred
Exposure in interior architecture preferred
Design-related computer literacy and proficiency preferred
At least 3 years experience required

CAD DESIGNER

Job Code: CAD

He shall be responsible for the production construction and detail working drawings. He may undertake design quality control activities during project implementation.

Male or female
College degree in Architecture or Interior Design
Professional Registration an advantage
Exposure in interior architecture preferred
Proficiency in Autocad 2000 required
Proficiency in graphic and modeling programs an advantage
CAD portfolio and at least 3 years experience required

3D COMPUTER GRAPHICS MODELER-RENDERER

Job Code: GRA

He shall be responsible for the production of multi-media presentation materials using various 3D graphics and animation programs. He may also be responsible for the generation of construction and detail working drawings.

Male or female
Proficiency in Autocad 2000, 3D Studio Max or Viz required
Proficiency in Adobe and Corel programs preferred
Graphics portfolio and at least 3 years experience required

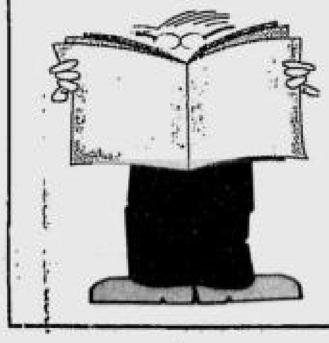
Interested parties may submit their comprehensive resumé not later than **15 February 2002** at:

THE ENVIRONMENTS COLLABORATIVE

27/F Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City 1226

Trunk +632 885 0808
Fax +632 728 0808
E-mail jobs@environments.com.ph

Text	If you want to be a part of a highly professional and dynamic company, we have immediate needs for the following positions: Training Manager • Master's Degree in Business, Communications, or Education • At least 2 years experience in training, preferably in a customer contact environment or in multinational company • Strong leadership, motivational, and supervisory skills Commercial Credit & Collection Manager • At least 2 years managerial experience in credit & collection preferably in credit card business Information Technology Manager • Degree in Computer Science, Communications, or Business • 3-5 years customer relations experience in technical environment • Highly complex knowledge of PC software applications including DOS, Windows, Unix, Network, and Internet communications • Database management experience is an advantage • Strong analytical skills • An excellent team player • Articulate with strong oral and written communications skills • Requires extended hours of operation and supervisory function and may require travel Customer Associate Manager • At least 2 years experience in supervising and coaching people preferably in a customer contact environment or in multinational company • Plus the qualifications for a Customer Contact Associate Customer Contact Associate • College Degree, preferably with major in Business or Communication, from the top universities • Highly proficient in the English Language (Writing, Reading, Speaking, & Listening Skills) • Excellent communication and typing skills • Familiarity with Microsoft Office including Word & Excel • Must have the ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously • Willing to work at different time zones • Experience in a fast-paced customer contact environment is a plus For the qualified candidates, you will be asked to undergo the following: • Multi-media test on English language proficiency • Series of interviews on key competency areas • Reference and background check For the successful candidates, we offer the following: • Highly competitive salary PLUS performance-based incentives and bonus plan • Medical/dental and other benefits • Career advancement and development • Comprehensive and ongoing training programs • Opportunity for travel • Dynamic and challenging work environment
Call-to-action	To be considered, please send your cover letter & resume to: DIRECTOR, RECRUITMENT & TRAINING MAILBOX 68 6TH FLOOR, LOCSIN BUILDING AYALA CORNER MAKATI AVENUES MAKATI, METRO MANILA



Where you find the best.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET
Where You Find the Best

Ayala Systems Technology, Inc.

A Systems Integration Company.

A subsidiary of Ayala Corporation, is a company offering a wide range of IT products and services for various industries.

The company is currently looking for a qualified and experienced candidate to fill up the position below:

SALES MANAGER

The candidate will be responsible for the development of sales plans for a range of business applications products and is responsible for meeting the business unit's sales goals. He/She shall be managing a team of sales representatives—drive sales, define sales strategy and provide guidance in preparing business proposals to win profitable deals, increase market share and customer satisfaction in their business area. He/She shall have Profit and Loss responsibility for the assigned Sales Unit. Candidates with software sales experience are preferred.

Interested parties can send their application letters, together with a comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and latest photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
AYALA SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY, INC.
3/F Ayala Life Building
6786 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or send email to: **hrd@ayalasystems.com**

Previous applicants need not apply.

Bantez Development Corporation BANTEZ

We are inviting success driven individuals to fill in the vacant position of:

ACCOUNTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Male, not more than 35 years old
- Must be able to complete full set of accounts
- With experience in Bank Reconciliation and Financial Statements preparation
- Result and deadline oriented, hardworking
- Can handle admin functions
- Can work with minimal supervision

Interested applicants may send their CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
PSRC Building, Calbayog corner Kanlaon Streets
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City
or E-mail your resumé at: **w.suarez@psrc-rl.com.ph**

Sony Life

Did you know!?

that SONY has a life insurance company?!!

Yes! There is a Sony Life Insurance Co. Ltd. We have been operating in Japan for more than 20 years and came here in the Philippines in the year 1998. We are a flagship company of Sony's financial business group and pursuing the standard of excellence like our peer Sony Group members such as Sony Electronics, Sony Music, Sony Pictures and Sony Playstation.

☐ **Ranked #1** in customer satisfaction in the Nikkei Business Survey.
☐ **Ranked #1** in net increase amount in in-force business.
☐ According to **Standard & Poors, "Sony Life is strengthening its market position** amid a difficult operating environment."

What is the secret of Sony Life's success?... Competitors wonder but the answer is simple:

☐ We don't assume that customers know how much protection they need.
☐ We can detect precisely how much protection customers need.
☐ We don't sell if we find customers have no needs.
☐ We know that customers' protection needs change from time to time.

How can we detect customers' needs precisely and accurately? It's a big wonder, but we have three (3) key concepts that explains everything:

☐ Financial Need Analysis (different method from others)
☐ Tailor-fitted Insurance Program
☐ Lifeplanner (totally different from other life insurance agents)

Career Opportunity

For those who want to know more about our secret, or are interested to join our Company, we will provide CIP - Career Information Program for you. **It's free of charge!**

BUT, not everybody can attend CIP. We will entertain only those who meet the following requirements:

☐ College graduate (our Lifeplanners are graduates of UP, Ateneo, De La Salle, Miriam College, UST, AIM, etc...)
☐ Age 30-45
☐ Currently earning more than P 40,000 a month
☐ No experience in life insurance/pre-need industry
☐ No immediate relatives in the life insurance/pre-need industry

You may send your resumé to:

35/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue cor Herrera St. Makati City or Fax it to 819-1803. For inquiries please call 819-6001.
Only qualified applicants will be contacted.

WANTED

SUPERVISING LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER

(Item Nos. ILSB-SVLEO-4-1998; Salary Grade: 22) with Bachelor's Degree, preferably in Business/Public Administration/Economics/Sociology, or graduate of other four-year course relevant to the job; 3 years of research experience, an advantage if in the field of labor and employment; 16 hours of relevant training; and Civil Service Eligible (Professional). Compensation: Basic Salary P19,251.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance.

(2) SENIOR LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER

(Item Nos. ILSB-SRLEO-5-1998 and ILSB-SRLEO-7-1998, Salary Grade: 19) with Bachelor's Degree preferably in Business/Public Administration/Economics/Sociology or other courses relevant to the job; two (2) years relevant experience in research particularly in the field of labor and employment; 8 hours of relevant training; Civil Service Eligible (Professional). Compensation: Basic Salary of P16,792.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER II

(Item No. ILSB-LEO-2-3-1998; Salary Grade: 16) with Bachelor's Degree, preferably in Business, Public Administration, Economics, Sociology, or graduate of four-year course relevant to the job; one-year research experience, an advantage, if in the field of labor and employment; eight hours of relevant training; and Civil Service Eligible (Professional). Compensation: Basic Salary of P11,837.00, plus P1,000.00 allowance.

(3) CLERK III

(Item No. ILSB-CK3-1-1998; ILSB-CK3-4-1998 and ILSB-CK3-5-1998; Salary Grade: 06) Completion of two-year studies in college, preferably in office administration graduate or graduate of two-year course relevant to the job; 6 months experience in the preparation of routine correspondence, endorsements, reports or other related work; and Civil Service Eligible (Sub-Professional). Compensation: Basic Salary of P7,606.00 plus P1,000.00 allowance.

Qualified parties must be currently holding a permanent, temporary or casual position in a government agency and may personally apply or send their comprehensive resumé to:

The Head, Administrative Unit
INSTITUTE FOR LABOR STUDIES
5th Floor, Department of Labor and Employment Building
General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila
Tel. No. 527-35-22
E-mail: nbdelapeña@ilsdole.gov.ph

CMC

CALIFORNIA MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

Invites applicants for the position

DISTRIBUTOR ACCOUNTS OFFICER

- College graduate preferably Engineering, Accounting or any Management course
- Fresh graduate with high leadership capacity
- Computer literate
- With good oral and written communication skills

CUSTOMER DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

- Graduate of any Business or Marketing course
- Previous experience with channel marketing, sales in multinational company setting is an advantage.

Interested parties must be willing to take assignments in the Visayas and Mindanao areas. Residents of Visayas and Mindanao areas will be given priority.

Applicants may send their resumé through the following modes:
Fax: 838-86-76 or 838-86-67
E-mail: jenalyn.ornido@cmcphil.com

or mail us at:
THE RECRUITMENT TEAM
CALIFORNIA MANUFACTURING CO., INC.
Km. 18 East Service Road, SSH-way, Parañaque, Metro Manila

Best Foods. Knorr ROYAL Lady's Choice alsa MAIZENA

Unilever BESTFOODS

APTi-Philippines, Inc. is a Research and Development Company and an affiliate of **IBM Japan, Ltd.**

APTi

We are looking for a Highly Motivated :

Finance Officer

Main Job: To participate in the overall corporate planning, budget control and financial evaluation of the company.
Qualifications:
- Female, single, not more than 28 years of age
- C.P.A. with at least 2 years of work experience in Business Planning
- Graduate of a reputable school
- High potential for management position in the future
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Must possess strong leadership skills, solid interpersonal communication skills and must be a team player
- Preferably residing near Alabang

Finance Staff

Main Job: To assist in preparation of financial analysis reports.
Qualifications:
- Female, single, not more than 23 years of age
- Graduate of any 4-year business course from a reputable school, with or without experience
- Result-oriented and a good team player
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
- With good and pleasing personality
- Preferably residing near Alabang

Accounting Clerk

Main Job: To assist in bookkeeping.
Qualifications:
- Female, single, not more than 23 years of age
- Graduate of BS-Accountancy or BS in Commerce major in Accounting, with or without experience
- Result-oriented and a good team player
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
- With good and pleasing personality
- Preferably residing near Alabang

Compensation and Benefits:
- Attractive remuneration package and career advancement
- Japanese Language Training
- Opportunities to travel overseas

We are now hiring for our Alabang Office. Applicants may send their application letter, resume, transcript of records and 2x2 ID picture and supporting credentials to P.O Box 187, Ayala-Alabang Post Office, 1799, Muntinlupa City.
For any inquiries pls. call : 807-5521 **(look for Ms. Rose Velarde)**
You may also send your resume (TEXT format only) through e-mail at *jobs@aptiphils.com*
Visit our Homepage URL: ***http://www.aptiphils.com***

A public listed wireless communication system manufacturer is looking for energetic personnel to build up the business and market in Philippines.

SALES DIRECTOR

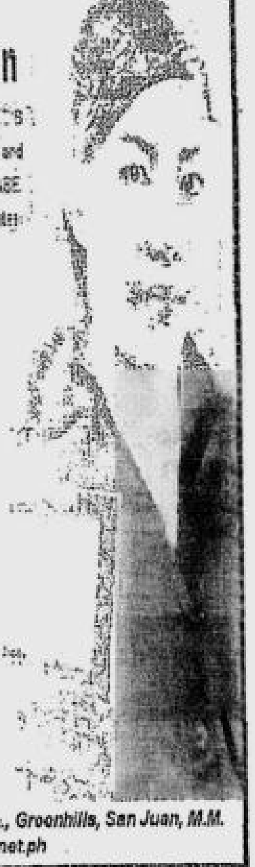
Responsible for sales, marketing, business and account development, office and team built-up, office and operation set-up with full P&L accountability.

☑ 7-10 years in telecom industry with at least 5 years in supervisory roles and with excellent sales records in cellular and wireless broadband access market
☑ Excellent connections with operators and government authorities, such as NTC
☑ Exposure in operation setup, licensing, channel distribution and type approval
☑ Mature, initiative, aggressive with track record in sales and business development, entrepreneur, strong commercial and negotiation experience
☑ Sound product and market knowledge in GSM, cellular and wireless access industry with good personal skill and contacts with regulatory bodies and customers
☑ Good communication in spoken and written English with good presentation skill
☑ Degree in Electronics, Marketing or equivalent

We offer excellent compensation and benefits package with stock option to the capable candidate. Please send resumé with details of job experience, present and expected salary to: **The Administrative Officer** by e-mail at address: **recruit_philippines@hotmail.com**

INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE

www.informatics.edu.ph



Join the Global Leader in IT Training and Education

We are an I.T. company composed of young I.T. professionals who are success-driven and result-oriented. INFORMATICS, the WORLD'S LARGEST NETWORK OF COMPUTER TRAINING INSTITUTE, invites aggressive and self-driven individuals to be part of its training and education centers in the Philippines and in the Asia Pacific region. COMPETITIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE, PROGRESSIVE SALARY INCREASE, EXTENSIVE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, FAST PROMOTION and POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENT await successful candidates.

These openings are for our branch in GREENHILLS

CENTER BUSINESS MANAGER

*Male or female, 26 to 35 years old
*Has an experience leading a group of people
*Candidates must have a Masteral Degree or equivalent management experience
*Have at least 2 years experience in the academe or project, sales and marketing management

CENTER OPERATIONS MANAGER

*Male or female, 27 to 40 years old
*Graduate of any Business Course
*3-5 years managerial experience in the field of operations and administration
*Resourceful and result-oriented
*With excellent communication skills

ACCOUNTANT

*Female, 21 to 30 years old
*Accounting graduate, preferably computer literate
*CPA license an advantage

COURSE CONSULTANTS

*Male or female, 21 to 25 years old
*College graduate with good communication skills
*With experience in sales or marketing
*Computer literate
*Pleasing Personality

LECTURERS

*Male or female, 20 to 35 years old
*B.S. Comp. Sci., Comp. Eng. graduate or any computer related course
*With good communication skills
*Knowledge in IT applications or any IT specialized field
*Preferably with teaching experience

SERVICES OFFICER

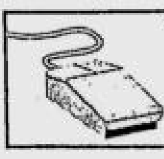
*Female 21 to 25 years old
*College graduate with good communication skills
*Preferably with background in administrative work
*Computer literate
*Pleasing personality

TECHNICIAN/UTILITY MAN

*Male, 18 to 25 years old
*At least 2nd year college (undergraduate)
*With technical background preferred
*Computer Literate

Send your resume with 2 x 2 ID picture to 2/F Security Bank Ortigas Building 228 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.
Tel. 727-0401 to 06 Fax 722-9490 or E-mail: jconstantino@informatics.net.ph

PHILIPPINES SINGAPORE BAHRAIN BANGLADESH BRAZIL BRUNEI CAMBODIA CHILE CHINA [illegible] HONG KONG INDIA INDONESIA [illegible] OMAN [illegible] MACAU MALAYSIA MAURITIUS MYANMAR PAKISTAN ROMANIA SAUDI ARABIA SRI LANKA SOUTH AFRICA SOUTH KOREA SWEDEN TAIWAN THAILAND UNITED KINGDOM VIETNAM ZIMBABWE



Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOBMarket ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office, Manila

Position Title: Operations Officer (Environment)

The World Bank Office, Manila seeks a candidate with a background in environmental management to assist in the in-country activities of the World Bank. The position will be for 3 years with one year probation and possibility of renewal. This position is subject to local recruitment and compensation. The selected candidate will be a part of the Bank's Environment and Social Development Unit in Manila and Washington DC. The Unit is primarily responsible for: (i) ensuring that Bank's safeguard policies are applied in the planning and implementation of investment operations; (ii) undertaking policy dialogue with client agencies to strengthen environmental management capacity in the Philippines; (iii) networking with stakeholders to advance environmental cooperation; and (iv) assisting the client agencies to identify and prepare projects that can be financed by Global Environmental Facility. The candidate will work closely with government agencies, the private sector, civil society and the media in advancing the above objectives. The selected candidate will report to the Country Director in Manila and the Sector Director in Washington D.C. The candidate will work closely with different Bank task teams.

Duties and Accountabilities

The Environmental Officer will be expected to engage in the following tasks:

- *Environmental Safeguards.* Provide support to task teams and clients in the application of the Bank's environmental safeguard policies (Environmental Assessment (EA), Forestry, Natural Habitats, and Integrated Pest Management) in different investment operations. This would include, drafting terms of reference for EA studies, reviewing EA reports, conducting discussions with stakeholders, assessing institutional arrangements, supervising the implementation of EAs, and coordinating activities with relevant government agencies and civil society.
- *Project Development.* Participate in task teams preparing and supervising environmental aspects of projects. The selected candidate will provide technical inputs and liaise with government agencies in facilitating project processing.
- *Client and Stakeholder Network.* Represent the World Bank at national fora, workshops and conferences. Establish a network with civil society and the private sector to expand the World Bank's dialogue with the environmental community in the Philippines.

Selection Criteria:

The Environmental Officer will be expected to have:

- At least a Master's degree in Engineering or Sciences with specialization in environmental management (or related field). Strong technical and practical background in environmental assessment and management, working knowledge of rural infrastructure, agricultural development, natural resources management, and water-related issues, with a good understanding of Philippine's institutional context.
- Minimum of 10 years experience in the Philippines or other developing countries in conducting and evaluating environmental assessments, environmental planning and management, with emphasis on regulatory aspects, investment planning and working with local groups and private sector.
- Good understanding of environmental impact assessment procedures and techniques. Knowledge of community participation approaches will be an added advantage.
- Strong analytical (computer-based), and client relations' skills. Ability to communicate, both verbal and written, in English.
- Proven ability to work in multi-disciplinary teams.
- Previous experience with international and donor organizations.

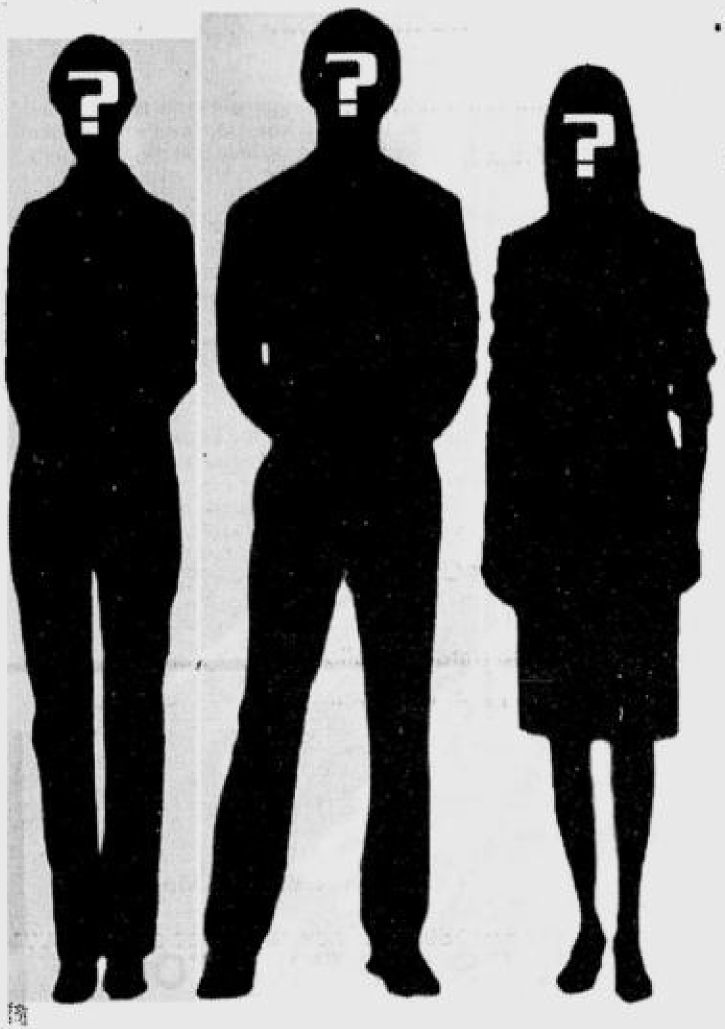
Please send your Application Letter/Bio-data/Academic Records/Reference Letters and latest photo not later than **February 1, 2002.** Send the above to:

The Administrative Officer
Box No. 2002
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

BE PART OF A SELECT GROUP OF I.T. PROFESSIONALS

The country's leading systems integrator, Accent Micro Technologies, Inc., is opening its doors to qualified candidates whose ambition is to make it big in the ever-dynamic I.T. industry.

We offer successful applicants state-of-the-art solutions, space for growth, above-average remuneration and an environment that's challenging and rewarding.



Account Managers

- Able to present world-renowned I.T. products to clients with confidence and conviction
- With extraordinary drive to exceed sales objectives
- Willing to undertake new methodologies and loves challenges
- Articulate, charming and a good conversationalist
- Believes that learning is a continuous process
- Results-oriented
- New graduates from reputable schools are welcome to apply

Field Engineers/Technicians

- Male, Single
- 21-28 years old
- Graduate of either electronics and communications engineering (ECE) or Technical/vocational school for electronics
- Knowledgeable in computer hardware maintenance, repair and configuration
- At least 1 year experience in computer troubleshooting and repair
- Willing to learn new skills and methodologies
- Willing to attend to client calls and work long hours

Send resume with 1x1 ID picture to:

Accent Micro Technologies, Inc.
Attention: Human Resources Department
Suite 1408 Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig

You may also apply online at www.amti.com.ph
or send resume to marketing@amti.com.ph
juliet@amti.com.ph

ACCENT·MICRO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
The key advantage to your competitive edge.

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

- Between 21 to 35 years old
- Accounting graduate, computer literate
- Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- Preferably with related work experience
- Willing to work beyond regular office hours

SECRETARIES

- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- Knowledge in secretarial services
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

HRM STAFF

- Female, between 21-28 years old
- BS Psychology graduate or any related course
- With good verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Honest, hardworking and with good human relations skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

NURSE

- Female, Nursing graduate
- At least 21-25 years old
- Preferably with experience
- Computer literate

ARTISTS

- Male, between 21-30 years old
- Fine Arts or Interior Design graduate
- With creative skills in drawing, lettering, silk screening, flower arranging, etc.
- Willing to work beyond working hours

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

- Male, Female, Gay, between 21 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business course
- At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPISTS

- Female, between 21 to 25 years old
- 5'2" and above in height
- With pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Graduate of Nursing or Physical Therapy
- With good communication skills

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS

- Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

SALES ASSOCIATES

- Between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Good in oral communication skills

HVAC TECHNICIAN

- Male, not over 30 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- At least 3 years related work experience

ELECTRICIAN

- Male, at least 25 to 28 years old
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering
- Must have worked as an Electrician or Maintenance Staff for at least 2 years
- Must have skills in trouble shooting of different kinds of office equipment
- Willing to work beyond working hours

DRIVER

- Male, not over 35 years old
- With at least two (2) years Professional Driver's License
- Knowledge in trouble shooting/auto-mechanics an advantage

BOX 100
c/o PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

ARCHON MANPOWER RESOURCES CORPORATION

Our client based in Japan is looking for outstanding people to form the start up team for their new office here in the Philippines. The initial team has the opportunity to strongly influence the set up of the company and then to grow and develop their roles and the overall company organization as output increases. The following opportunities exist.

GENERAL MANAGER

- An appropriate Bachelors degree or equivalent
- Excellent management skills
- Preferably has experience working for a health clinic and has knowledge of Chinese medicine
- Practical knowledge of Labor relations
- Ability to develop people and a natural leader of people
- Fluent in English, excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Has pleasing personality

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- Handle full consolidation of accounts
- Manage operating cash flow
- Maintain accounting and financial records
- At least 5 years post qualified experience
- Supervisory skills and have strong analytical skills
- Fluent in English

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

- Degree in HRM or its equivalent
- Minimum of 5 years experience in human resource administration, people development or taining
- Fluent in English, excellent communication and presentation skills
- Able to translate business objectives into performance development objectives
- With pleasing personality

Send or bring resumé with 2x2 picture to:

Human Resources Department
44A Zeta II Building
191 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City

You may also apply online at
linchrd@info.com.ph or at **agnes_altea@hotmail.com**

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

TRAVEL COORDINATOR (R-TC)

○ Female, 26-30 years old, mature
○ Graduate of any 4-year course
○ Good background in handling travel matters
○ Good communication skills
○ Intelligent
○ Good interpersonal skills

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS (R-HRS)

○ Female, at least 26 years old
○ Graduate of Business Mangement or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
○ Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources particularly in planning & research
○ With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
○ Must have the potential to work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
○ Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
○ Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
○ Proficient in English communication and computer programs

BOX 200
c/o PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
5th floor, Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

The Asian Institute of Management is looking for qualified individuals to fill up the following positions:

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

Must be a graduate of BS ECE, Computer Engineering, Computer Science or related field. He/She must have at least 2 years of exposure in Network Administration, Internet and Network Engineering, Web Management and Systems Security. He/She should be well versed in the following: MS Windows NT/2000, Unix, Routers, Hubs / Switches, Intel and RISC-based Systems, Network Management Software, Lotus Notes, RDBMS, Office Productivity, and other Hardware (modems, scanners, etc). He/She will direct and coordinate local area computer network activities, establish and maintain network user and system software and hardware requirements, perform network troubleshooting to isolate and diagnose common network problems, install, upgrade and configures network printing, directory structures, rights, security, and software on file servers, upgrade network hardware and software components as required and create and consolidate full documentation of the Network, Network Equipment Configuration, Servers and Applications residing therein.

PROGRAM MANAGERS

MBA or Master Degree holder, computer-literate, with excellent oral and written communication skills and preferably with exposure in program administration in a managerial level. Successful candidate should be able to relate well with different kinds of people and shall handle the administrative, financial, marketing and operational aspect of assigned program.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR

The person should be a graduate of ECE preferably licensed with at least three years of experience in voice telecommunications systems administration, and Analog and Digital Communication equipment. He/She will provide responsive system administration for the Institute's Communications Equipment, design and develop specifications for current and future telecommunications installations and systems, write specifications, procure communications materials and equipment and supervise the installations, manage all phases of project development to ensure user satisfaction, project continuity and internal consistency, prepare budget and correspondence related to telecommunications systems and operation and maintenandce problems and formulate and implement current and long range programs such as data collection and evaluation procedures and integration of voice and data networks.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to the:

Office for the Human Resource Development
Asian Institute of Management
123 Paseo De Roxas Street, Makati City
Please indicate the position applied for.

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acer

Acer, one of the top PC vendor in the Philippines is inviting applicants for the following positions:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER/EXECUTIVE

- with extensive market opportunity research experience
- creative and analytical

CORPORATE ACCOUNT MANAGER/EXECUTIVE

- with successful track record in corporate account development
- creative, analytical and with excellent presentation skills

DEALER SUPPORT MANAGER/EXECUTIVE

- excellent knowledge in computer retail business

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER

- with managing service center and handling technical support service personnel experience
- with excellent knowledge on computer hardware and software applications

We are looking for applicants who are/have:

- **graduates from reputable universities**
- **at least 2 to 3 years IT-related work experience in the same capacity as the positions listed above**
- **flexible, pro-active, goal-oriented, highly motivated**
- **excellent communication skills**

Qualified applicants may submit their resumes (w/ photo) to:

Human Resource Department
Acer Computer Philippines Inc.
747 Romualdez St.,
Ermita, Manila 1000

The leading store for construction and building materials, hardware equipment and accessories, and various home improvement items is in need of hard-working professionals to fill up the following positions:

HRD HEAD (Code: HH)
HRD ASSISTANT (Code: HA)

☑ Female, AB Psychology/Behavioral Science graduate, knowledge in all aspects of HRD functions
☑ Must be familiar with updated Labor Laws
☑ Excellent oral and written communication skills, can deal with all levels of organization
☑ Computer/Internet literate
☑ For (HH) between 26-35 years old, at least 3-5 years experience in same capacity
☑ For (HA) not more than 25 years old, at least 2 years experience in same capacity

MARKETING ASSISTANT

☑ Female, MassComm or Marketing graduate, not more than 28 years old
☑ Not less than 2 years experience in the same capacity
☑ Excellent oral and written communication skills, very good PR
☑ Well exposed to initiating sales, promotions and publicity
☑ Computer literate

STORE MANAGER

☑ Male, 30-35 years old, graduate of any 4-year course
☑ Not less than 3 years experience in the same capacity
☑ Excellent oral and written communication skills, computer literate
☑ Can handle trainings or seminars
☑ Can deal with all levels of people, dynamic, proactive, organized

DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS

☑ Female/Male, College graduate, not over 28 years old
☑ Not less than 2 years experience in the same capacity
☑ Customer-oriented, good oral and written communication skills

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

☑ Female, CPA, not more than 35 years old
☑ Computer literate, excellent oral and written communication skills
☑ Knowledge of updated tax regulations
☑ Experience in retailing and wholesaling an advantage

ACCOUNTING CLERKS/INVENTORY CLERKS

☑ Female, BSBA Accounting/BS Accountancy graduates, not over 28 years old
☑ Computer literate, organized, must be experienced on related field

CANVASSERS

☑ Male/Female, graduate of any 4-year course, not over 28 years old
☑ Familiar with hardware and construction materials
☑ Familiar with Metro Manila areas
☑ Analytical, aggressive, with good memory, good oral/written English

FORKLIFT OPERATOR

☑ Male, at least Second Year College, not over 28 years old
☑ Not less than 2 years experience

SALES MERCHANDISERS (HARDWARE)

☑ Male, not over 28 years old, College level
☑ Customer-oriented, pleasant personality, experience is an advantage

Interested professionals may apply with their comprehensive resumé, two (2) latest 2x2 pictures and Transcript of Records at the address below:

MC Home Depot

The Administration Department
168 Ortigas Avenue corner Meralco Avenue
Pasig City
Tel. No. 636-6944

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

DATABASE/VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMERS
GRAPHIC ARTIST/WEB SITE DEVELOPERS

➲ Part/Full Time Positions
➲ Contract Placements
➲ Project Assignments
➲ Consulting Engagements

Visual Basic/MS Certified or equivalent experience preferred, knowledge in HTML/JAVA a big plus.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

➲ Experience with Microsoft Office and Windows, knowledge in graphics and desktop publishing, encoding skills a big plus.

SALES and MARKETING EXECUTIVES

➲ Aggressive and energetic individuals with pleasing personality

Applicants should be highly competent, creative, motivated, output oriented and willing to pursue a lucrative career in the **IT** and **Telecom** industry. Preferably a graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering(s) or equivalent experience and/or degree with excellent oral-written communication skills.

If you got what it takes, send us your resumé:

BOX MN-2031
c/o Classified Division
Ground Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building
Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and
Mascardo Streets, Makati City

You may also fax us at **(632) 655-8332** or email us at **hr@ispi-cti.com**. Please indicate the position you are applying for. Successful applicants will be scheduled accordingly.

A Korean construction company based in Dhaka, Bangladesh

is in need of the following:

PLANNING ENGINEER

○ Must have at least 10 years experience in preparing official and claim documents in planning section

BRIDGE ENGINEER

○ Must have at least 10 years experience in scheduling and Controlling of work for 555m of bridge in construction section

MATERIAL ENGINEER

○ Must have at least 10 years experience in scheduling and Controlling of construction materials in procurement section

An attractive remuneration package commensurate with qualification and experience will be offered to the successful candidates.

Apply at:

F.O. MAIDIN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, INC.
8008 Tanguile Street, San Antonio Village, Makati
Tel. Nos. 8977950 / 8708689 Telefax No. 8965076

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY / NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
"MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER" / THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA

AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (PHILIPPINES), INC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An opportunity currently exists to represent a dynamic and growing chamber of commerce that works closely with both the private and public sectors of the Australian and New Zealand communities in the Philippines.

The position is demanding in requiring a person who has an understanding and the maturity to be an effective interface for the chamber with a diverse number of groups ranging from Government representatives to Business Groups to Chamber Committee Chair persons.

The role will require leadership and management skills to effectively deliver the Chamber's Business Plan against Key Performance Indicators whilst liaising closely with the President and the Chamber's Board of Directors.

The Chamber is regarded by its peers with respect and the Executive Director is expected to undertake a major role in its continuing development, and ability to influence the positive outcome of key issues affecting the Australian and New Zealand businesses in the Philippines.

The position is based in Makati City, Manila, Philippines and is remunerated on the basis of a local appointment. For the right person, a suitable package will be negotiated.

For persons who wish to be considered, in the first instance, would they please forward their resume by e-mail to the Corporate Secretary, Mr. Leo Dominguez, at leo.dominguez@bakernet.com or Telephone the President, Mr. Bill Mason at Nos. 533-9842 and 533-9844 for further details or e-mail him at wmason@australasia.com.ph

All applications to be considered must arrive on or before the 15th February 2002 and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

NTC-M
NMFPI

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA

Is in need of a

GMDSS INSTRUCTOR

Who Are We?

The Norwegian Training Center-Manila of the Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (NMFPI) was founded in May 1990 for the purpose of ensuring competent training and to promote quality shipping.

We offer varied courses from Ship and Cargo Handling; Management; Technical; Safety Courses; Welding; and Culinary Courses.

Our faculty of Norwegian and Filipino mariners are trained to teach with confidence, aided by modern teaching aids and methods.

What We Are Looking For?

We are looking for:

1. Experienced instructor with General Operator Certificate (GOC).
2. At least 2 years of seagoing experience operating GMDSS equipment and at least 1 year further relevant education and/or experience in designing, maintaining or operating radio communication equipment.
3. Articulate in English language.
4. Computer literate.

We do not specify the gender neither is the age. If you get what it takes, then you are what we are looking for.

For applications please contact either of the following:

Capt. Ivar Thomasli, Director
Capt. Eddie P. Berueda, Training Manager
Ms. Blesila G. Tani-Salva, Administrative Manager

Address:

Norwegian Training Center-Manila
NTC-M Building Gate 2 TESDA Complex,
East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 812-0742
Website: www.ntcm.com.ph
E-mail: ntcm.registrar@ntcm.com.ph

EDWARD MARCS PHILS., INC. is engaged in the exclusive distribution of Solar Heating System and supplier of spare parts for diesel engines of electric power companies in the Philippines, is looking for highly motivated and value driven individuals to join our team as:

SALES EXECUTIVES

☺ At least 21 to 30 years old.
☺ College graduate preferably with a degree in Engineering.
☺ Preferably with experience in sales.
☺ Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines.
☺ Has good command of written and verbal communication.
☺ Highly motivated and results-oriented.

Interested applicants may submit personally their resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture, NBI clearance, and photocopy of transcript of records to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
2nd Floor Timog Building, #28 Eugenio Lopez Sr.
(Formerly Scout Albano St., Near ABS-CBN)
South Triangle, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 922-1658, 922-1371

SAN BENILDO INTEGRATED SCHOOL

De La Salle Supervised
Grade School & High School Department
Marcos & Sumulong Highway, Rizal

is in need of the following for school year 2002-2003

1. **Grade School and High School teachers in all subjects (preferably LET passer)**
2. **Guidance Counselor**
3. **Librarian (board passer)**

Hiring rate: Php 11,000.00

Bring your resumé, transcript of records, and PRC License and 2x2 picture.

Please contact Dr. Cellie S.L. Santos at 6811718 or 6787438 (GS) and 6608105-10 (HS)

DOME

Dome Café is a chain of outlets in the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and Indonesia offering a wide array of fine foods and gourmet coffees. We set the pace for new standards of experience in operating cafés.

We are looking for aggressive, dynamic, pleasant and service-oriented individuals to fill the following positions:

Café Managers
Supervisors
Chefs
Bakers
Service Crew
Cooks
Receptionists
Handyman/Electrician

Requirements:

☑ Experience in similar capacity
☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
☑ 18 to 35 years of age

Benefits:

☑ Attractive salary and fringe benefits
☑ Excellent opportunity for career advancement
☑ Cross training in other Dome Cafés abroad

Interested parties may send their resumés to:

Dome Café
Unit 5-G Strata 100, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
or Fax resumé to 638-6769

Tomlinson

Singapore Malaysia Thailand Philippines

The Tomlinson Collection is the leading antique specialist in oriental works of art in Southeast Asia. The Philippine branch is inviting applicants for the positions of:

Assistant Gallery Manager

- Female, single, between 24-30 years old;
- Fluent in written and spoken English;
- Preferably with experience in sales and marketing;
- Willing to work 6 days a week and during weekends;
- Graduate of a highly reputable university.

Executive Assistant

- Female, single, between 21-25 years old;
- Fluent in written and spoken English;
- Very organized and dependable;
- Willing to work 6 days a week;
- Graduate of a highly reputable university.

We offer a highly competitive compensation package, opportunities to travel abroad, and highly specialized training for the position being applied.

Submit your resume with current passport-sized photo to:
40 Jupiter St., cor. Paseo de Roxas, Bel-Air Vill., Makati
Tel/Fax: 890-9302

WE ARE IN NEED OF

SALES ENGINEERS

Graduate of Civil Engineering or Architecture

Experience in selling metal decking, aluminum composite panel and walling products is an advantage

ARCHITECKS
metal systems inc.
533 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
Tel. No. 931-2602 / 951-2289 to 91 Fax No. 931-1459

E-mail Add.:amsi@nsclub.net / architecks@edsamail.com.ph

We are a leading manufacturer and distributor of world class food brands with extensive market both in consumer and institutional products. We are in need of mature and dynamic individuals to join the pool of their talented workforce.

TRADE MARKETING OFFICER

- Male, college graduate
- Preferably has knowledge and experience working with Chefs and restaurant owners
- with culinary expertise or knowledge in Food Service
- Must be FLUENT in Cantonese, Fookien and English
- Food Service Sales/Marketing experience an advantage

TELEMARKETER

- Female, college graduate
- Previous experience in a similar capacity an advantage
- Computer Literate, with good communication skills

Then you are the person we are looking for. Please send your resumé to:

HR Department
145 Panay Ave., Quezon City
or e-mail at : hr@syeuinc.com.ph

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL / GENERAL

Come join our team!

Elements Fine Furnishing Fabrics, Inc. is a trusted source within the interior furnishings industry. We distribute fabric, wallpaper and trimmings (amongst the best world has to offer) and work very hard to provide highly professional service to the masters of Philippine Interior Design and Architecture.

As our company grows, we have need for two individuals who are self-starters:

~ First, someone to FOCUS ON DETAILS:
Responsibilities will include coordinating international shipments, liaising daily with our suppliers around the world, helping track inventory.
You should have 1-3 years of general work experience and must be computer literate (proficient in Word and with Excel). Show us that you are comfortable communicating with people over the telephone, or by fax and e-mail. You must be an efficient self-starter with lots of initiative, and it would help to have a really good memory and a healthy sense of humor.

~ Second, someone to assist us in KEY ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT:
We need a systematic, highly motivated individual to generate sales leads and to focus on prospecting and on client relations. If you have 1-3 years of direct sales or key account management experience, we would be very interested in hearing from you.

Positions are available to start on **March 1, 2002**. We pay above industry rates.

If a long-term career opportunity appeals to you, please send your resumé (with your most recent, verifiable work references) to:

ELEMENTS FINE FURNISHING FABRICS, INC.
9th Floor, DPC Place Building
2322 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati 1222

Priority will be given to resumés that reach us on or before FEBRUARY 8th.

You are about to join

A growing & learning company

Are you up to the journey?

- **Field Salesmen:** with good connection; has existing network of good sales leaders; must have experience in managing independent sales force or sub-agents.
- **Product Demonstrator:** with good showmanship skills, personable, articulate, enthusiastic, ready to learn all about our products, and will enhance the image of our products.
- **Training Coordinator:** good coordination and communication skills, fast, thorough and accurate worker. willing to work some weekends and night time.

Deadline for submission : February 2, 2002
Send your detailed resume with picture before this date, attention to: HRD

WATERS-AMC
#14 Ilang-Ilang St. New
Manila, Quezon City,
Philippines 1100
e-mail: josiah@i-manila.com.ph

Red Ribbon BakeShop **Bulacan Branch** is accepting applicants for the following positions:

STORE SUPERVISOR

The applicants must be a graduate of Management or any business-related course, with at least one (1) year hands-on experience in store operations and customer satisfaction. He/She must have strong leadership potential and with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

SERVICE CREW

The applicant must be 18-24 years old, 5'6" in Height for Male, 5'2" for Female, at least 2nd year college and with pleasing personality. Male/Female, over 24 years old need not apply.

Please apply in person with your comprehensive resumé/bio-data and a passport ID size on January 28 to February 01, 2002, 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN at:

Red Ribbon Retiro Bakeshop
G/F Edificio Enriqueta
422 N.S. Amorante St., (formerly Retiro)
corner D. Tuazon Ave., Sta. Mesa Heights
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 732-7865 or 414-1974

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

WAREHOUSE CLERK

- ⇨ MALE
- ⇨ COLLEGE LEVEL
- ⇨ 25 TO 35 YEARS OLD
- ⇨ VISAYAN SPEAKING IS AN ADVANTAGE
- ⇨ WILL OPERATE FORKLIFT
- ⇨ WILL BE ASSIGNED IN VALENZUELA WAREHOUSE

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUMÉ WITH 2X2 PICTURE AT RM. 1504-B STATE INVESTMENT BLDG., JUAN LUNA ST., BINONDO, MANILA, TEL # 242-23-22

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CREDIT & COLLECTION ASSISTANT

- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy, physically fit
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience in similar function
- ✓ Organized, with strong interpersonal skills

FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE

- ✓ Male / Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy
- ✓ Highly motivated, physically fit, with at least 2 yrs sales exp., IT background an advantage
- ✓ Knowledgeable in and willing to travel to various parts of the country

HR ADMIN. ASSISTANT

- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, graduate of psychology or any related behavioral course
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs exp. in small enterprise & knowledgeable in basic HR policies
- ✓ High computer literacy, physically fit

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience, physically fit
- ✓ Systematic, familiar with basic office work
- ✓ Excellent written and oral communication skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR

- ✓ Female, at least 24 years old, business degree graduate, high computer literacy, physically fit
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience, with strong interpersonal skills, can work well under pressure and with minimum supervision
- ✓ Residing within or around Valenzuela area

Send your comprehensive resumé and photo to:

CARTAN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, INC.
Rm. 805 State Centre Bldg., 333 Juan Luna St.,
Binondo, Manila
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
subject: cartan

A FAMOUS RESTAURANT CHAIN IS IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING AND FRANCHISING AND IS IN NEED OF AN

ACCOUNTANT

Male or Female; CPA; 30 to 40 years old; With at least 4 years minimum experience in the food retail business; With good oral and verbal communication skills; Computer literate; Able to work with minimum supervision; Salary commensurate to qualifications.

COMMISSARY HEAD

Male or Female; Preferably a Food Tech. Graduate or any related course; Will be handling overall commissary operations; Computer literate; Able to work with minimum supervision; Salary commensurate to qualifications.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

Male or female; College graduate; Not more than 27 years old; Computer literate; With at least two years experience in the same capacity; Knowledgeable in the overall operations of a bar and restaurant.

Interested parties may send their resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture thru fax no. 533-2960 thru e-mail rosel_b@edsamail.com.ph or thru mail to this address:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
#755 San Ignacio St., Mandaluyong City

CGKformaprint, Inc.

A leading commercial and packaging offset printing company is urgently looking for highly motivated individuals to handle the following positions:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Female, 23-28 years old, Marketing/Advertising graduate or any related course; Preferably with field sales experience from Ad Agencies or any related field w/ vast list of clients; Good command both oral and written communications; Computer literate.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

Female, not over 25 years old, with pleasing personality; Marketing/Mass Comm./Advtg. Graduate; Computer literate; Pref. with 1 year sales & mktg. work-related; Can work with minimum supervision.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Female, 21-26 years old, Graduate of B.S. Accountancy; Computer literate and familiar with all government remittances.

Please apply personally or mail/fax resumé, with 2x2 colored picture and transcript of records at:

Human Resource Department
2275 P. Burgos St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 831-7549 / 0429 / 9668
Fax No. 831-2945

A Prestigous Materials Handling Equipment Company is in need of . . .

☐ SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVES

- *Male/ female, not more than 30 years of age*
- *With excellent oral and written skills*
- *Aggressive marketing personality*
- *Graduate of any College Degree*
- *With experience*

☐ MARKETING ASSISTANT

- *Female- not more than 24 years old*
- *With excellent oral and written skills*
- *Computer literate*
- *Business course graduate*
- *Experience in tele-marketing a plus*

We offer an Above Average compensation package
Include with your Résumé the ff:
a list of achievements, 2 x 2 picture and send to:

HRD Department
PO Box 3666 , M.C.P.O.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
NHI Bldg., T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
P.O. Box 3398, Manila

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
(In compliance with RA 7041)

HISTORY RESEARCHER II, SG-14, Item No. HTRYR2-18-1998. Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, preferably B.S. Architecture/Civil Eng'g.; one year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training; CS Professional/2nd level eligibility.

DRAFTSMAN II, SG-08, Item No. DFM2-2-1998. Completion of two years studies in college or High School graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; one year of relevant experience; four hours of relevant training; Career Service (Subprofessional)/Draftsman or Illustrator (MC 11, s. 96 - Cat. I)/First level eligibility.

SHRINE GUIDE, SG-6, Item Nos. SHRG-1 & 2-1998. (For Tayum, Abra & MM assignment) Completion of two years studies in college (preferably with units in history/social sciences/communication arts); CS Subprofessional/1st level eligibility.

ILLUSTRATOR II, SG-06, Item No. ILTOR2-1-1998. Completion of two years studies in college or high school graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; CS Subprofessional/Draftsman or Illustrator (MC 11, s. 96 - Cat. I)/First Level eligibility.

CLERK II, SG-4, Item Nos. CK2-1, 2 & 4-1998. Completion of two years studies in college; CS Subprofessional/1st level eligibility.

SECURITY GUARD I, SG-3, Item No. SECG1-7-1998. Completion of secondary school course with relevant training. Security Guard license (CSC MC 11, s. 1996, Cat. II)

MASON I, SG-3, Item No. MSN1-1-1998. Elementary school graduate. Eligibility: Mason/MC11, S. 1996-Cat. 1.

MESSENGER, SG-2, Item No. M-2-1998. Elementary school graduate. Preferably has driver's license & can drive a motorcycle.

UTILITY WORKER I, SG-1, Item Nos. UTW1-8, 9, 10, 13, 16, 18-1998. Must be able to read and write.

NOTE: Deadline for submission of application–February 5, 2002.

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4. Ensure the correct implementation of Project activities and timely submission of the Project's LMIS deliverables and other required reports to the Department of Health.

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- Proficient in Windows NT or 2000, at least two (2) years experience
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- Free to travel outside Metro Manila, if required

REQUIREMENTS

- Resumé
- NBI or Police Clearance
- Recent 2x2 photo

Please submit complete requirements to **Mr. JUN AMABLE** or **Mr. OLIVER MARGAREJO** of John Snow, Inc., 2nd Floor, Building 25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila or email comprehensive resumé (MS Word format) to jsicds@info.com.

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Interested parties may submit their resumé with one (1) 2x2 I.D. picture together with NBI/Barangay clearance, TOR at:

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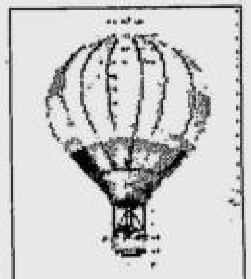

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Maintain eye contact.

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Listen carefully.

Jaymie needs to understand the interviewer's question before attempting to answer it. Taking a deep breath before replying, will give Jaymie a little time to think about her answer. The first few questions are usually critical because it sets the mood. When she starts right, she'll see herself relaxing as the interview goes on.

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SUNDAY
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE

January 27, 2002
Volume 14 No. 47

EOS
INSPECTED

Albert Garcia

Freeze Fame

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COMPELLING PHOTO

I'm a second year Communication Arts student and I want to tell you about the most wonderful picture I've ever seen. I'm referring to the picture of the Buan family published in your magazine (**SIM**, 30 December 2001), showing the release of Army Maj. Noel Buan after being held hostage for 21 months. The first time I saw the picture, my eyes burned with tears. I couldn't help it; I felt the pain, sense of loss, relief and happiness of the subjects in the photograph. Truly our country has been through a lot this year, pain, war, and all that, but there are also good things that we should be thankful for. And one of these is the release of Major Buan.

Congratulations to the SIM staff for making INQUIRER a success this year. I'm hoping for another good year for all of us.

AILEEN GONZAGA
geeprettinuz8@yahoo.com

SAVE THE PAINTINGS

The article on German Conservator Renate Kant written by Jonathan Best (SIM, 06 January 2002) triggered my concern for the bigger-than-life size portraits along the open corridors of the San Agustin Church in Intramurous. The paintings are not protected from humidity, dust and heat in any way. I saw the paintings in pitiful condition when I visited in May 2000. It hurt to see it.

Is something being done to these magnificent artworks that have been warped by centuries of neglect? Something needs to be done so that we can continue to show future Filipino generations our rich diverse past.

CHRISTIAN CO
Washington, DC
Chriscolpt@aol.com

MORE OF PIA

I was quite pleased that you featured Ms Pia Guanio on your Sunday magazine (**SIM,** 6 January 2002). This prompted me to immediately go to your web site hoping that a similarly large image of Ms. Guanio is posted along with the article. The image on the home page of the magazine was OK. However, the image that accompanied the article was somewhat of a disappointment. I found it rather small compared to the one found in the printed version. If it isn't asking too much, may I request for a larger high-resolution JPEG image to accompany the online story?

SIMOUN DELA VEGA
sdelav@hotmail.com

A SAD YEAR

I was able to get a copy of your Images of 2001 (**SIM**, 30 December 2001). I feel sad that most of the events that you've listed down were full of tears, hatred and disappointments.

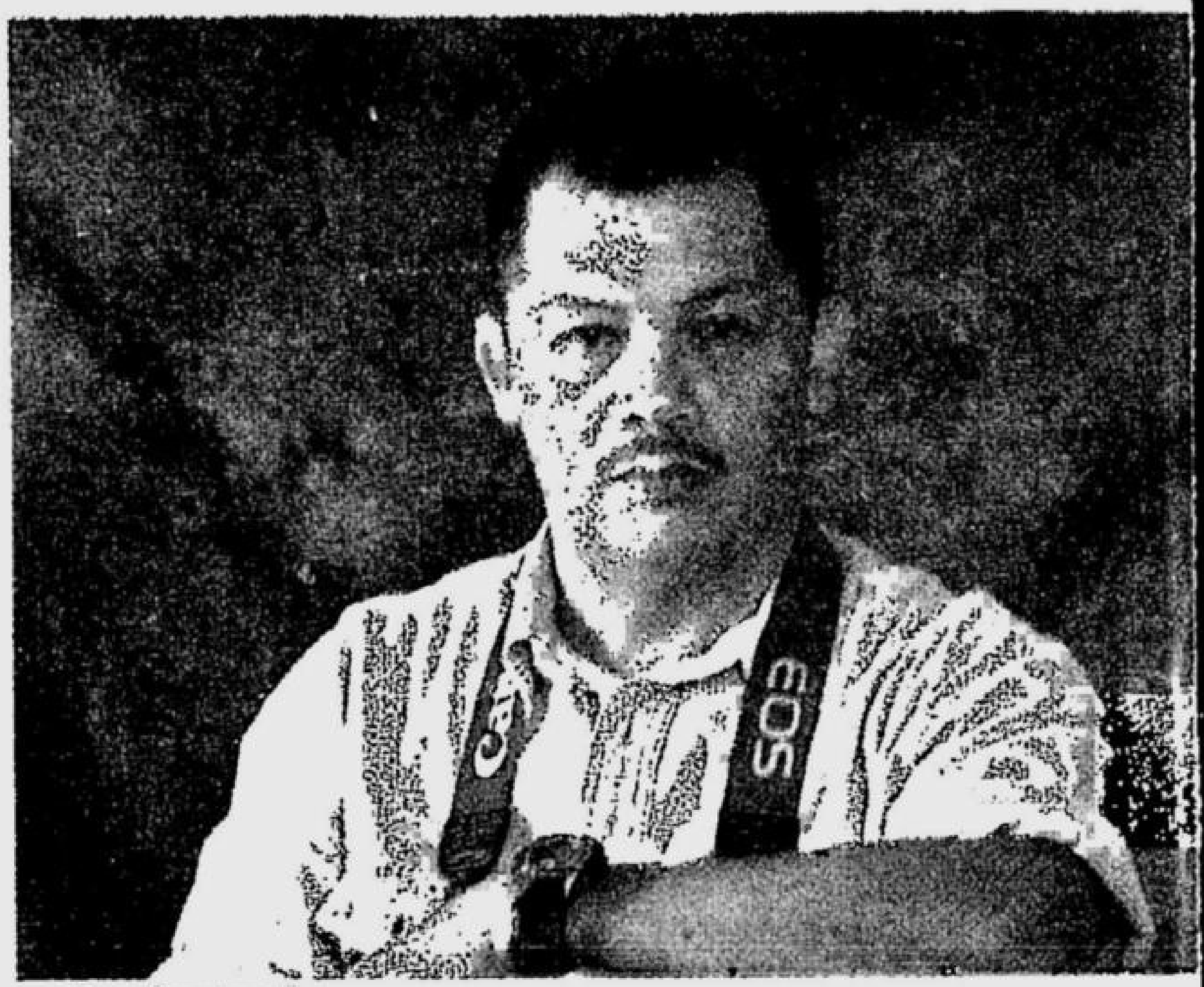
Truly, last year was unforgettable for all of us. So many things happened that changed our lives. Even in our wildest dreams, we didn't imagine that all of these could happen in just a year. Maybe at first, we're in denial. Maybe we thought we were just watching a typical movie where there's drama, action and comedy all rolled into one. But unfortunately, this is real life.

It all started because of that fateful envelope. The rest is history in Philippine politics. Similarly, the whole world was shocked when in just a matter of minutes, one of the tallest buildings in America collapsed. And lastly, who could ever forget the barbaric and brutal slaying of our beloved Nida Blanca? The whole country mourned her death. We felt that we had lost a friend, a mother or a grandmother. She's not only an icon of beauty but she's a great performer, a brilliant star and a precious gem. Truly, the country has lost a wonderful person that we will all miss.

But as the saying goes, everything happens for a reason. And whatever the reason is, we should not question it. Instead, all we can do is be optimistic that this year will be more peaceful and to pray because after all that we've gone through, He still remains the strongest link.

Good luck to all your staff! God bless.

EMY ABAYAN ABE III-I
College of Languages and Linguistics
PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila



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The Cover Image Fate and patience gave Albert Garcia the chance to become a world-class lensman *Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento*

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Businesswatch

by Alya B. Honasan

photographs by Betoy Johnson

What happens when two scuba-diving, ocean-loving cousins with a penchant for design get into business? Definitely something fishy

Water Buddies

IT WAS A LOVE OF THE SEA THAT WAS DEVELOPED EARLY IN COUSINS BERNICE PALANCA-GO AND ANNA JOAQUIN. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CHILDHOOD WEEKENDS AT THE BEACH, IN TALI, MATABUNGKAY OR A FAMILY-OWNED ISLAND IN SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN. "WE LITERALLY GREW UP IN THE WATER, TOGETHER," ANNA SAYS.

The bond lasted way into adulthood. Eight years ago, the two took scuba-diving lessons together, Bernice partly at the urging of her then boyfriend and now husband, businessman Tato Go. "We're permanent buddies," Bernice says of herself and Anna, both literally and in the sporting sense of the word, a "buddy" being half of the inviolable safety tandem that divers must be part of to get into the water.

Both ladies concurrently pursued more creative inclinations. Bernice, who also designs clothes and was once declared one of Manila's Five Prettiest, studied fashion merchandising in the United States and set up the hip little atelier Apartment C with another cousin, Chantal Ysmael. Anna studied interior design and used to do Christmas decorations for Ayala, Rustan's and other companies. Now she also runs Dive Elite, a booking office for diving and other outbound trips, with her partner, dive instructor Louie Barrios.

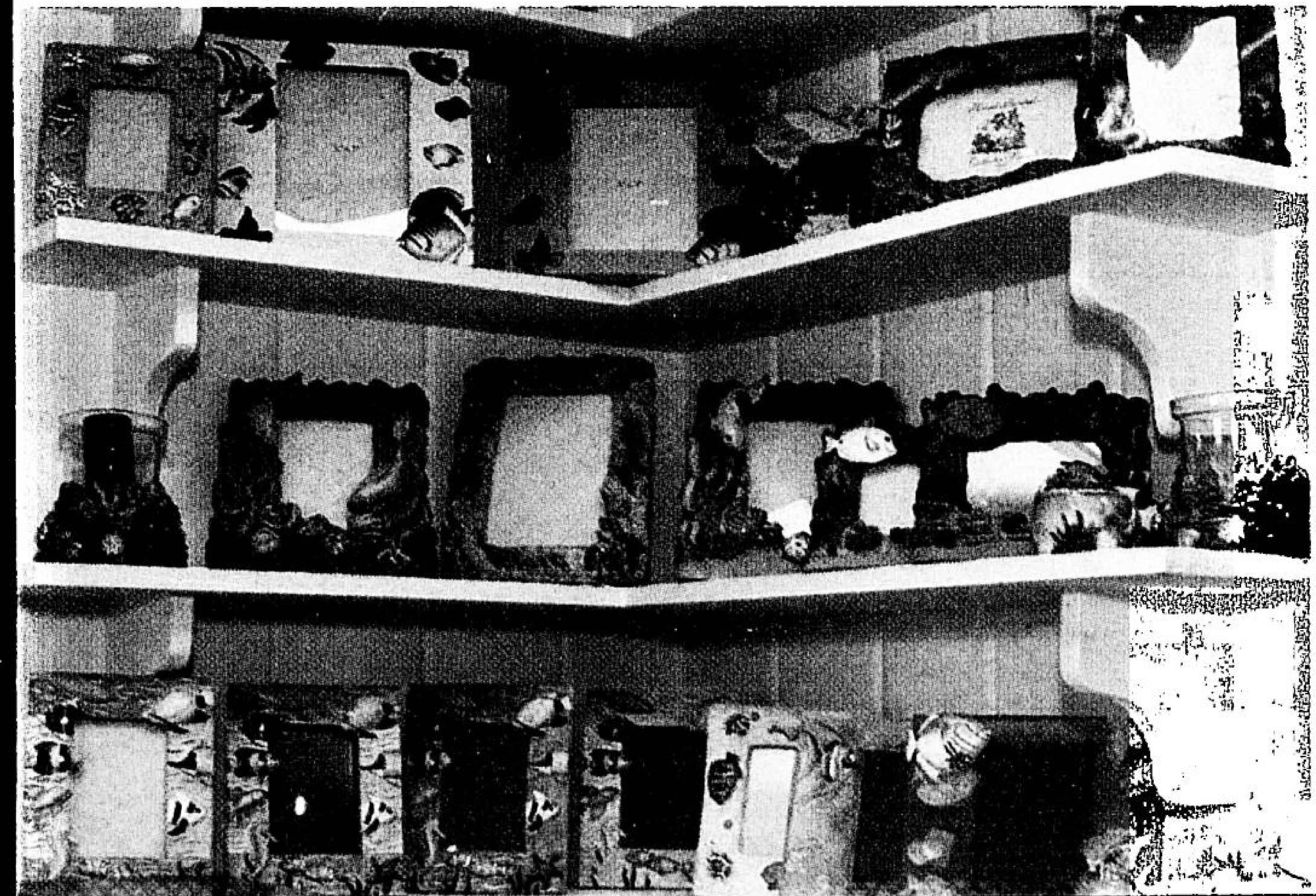
In the swim of things: Anna and Bernice

"Here we are, a tropical country, we have so many resorts and islands, and you can't find such fish-inspired crafts"

Still, the underwater adventures continued, to nearby Anilao in Batangas, the Sulu Sea and even Palau, Micronesia. Bernice, who collects fish chimes and frames, remembers cleaning out a store in Koror, Palau and wondering why she couldn't find such novelties here. "I mean, here we are, a tropical country, we have so many resorts and islands, and you can't find such fish-inspired crafts," says Anna.

In August of last year, the pair set up a mini-factory in the backyard of Anna's Parañaque house. Here they make fish-shaped candles, seashell-studded shower curtains, throw pillows with marine animal appliqués, and brightly-colored resin and wooden picture frames riddled with fish and turtles, fish magnets, sea creature candle holders and chimes, and other items. They began supplying dive shops and resorts, and in late November of last year, they opened a little corner at Greenbelt Shopping Plaza called Fish and Things.

From sea to shining sea: An array of ocean-inspired frames



More than a precursor of other outlets, which will depend on the market, Bernice and Anna envision the little nook to be a "showroom" for corporate and institutional gifts as well as a venue for product development. In short, if you've got a whimsical idea you'd like to see interpreted, come see them and they'll give it a shot. Wedding giveaways is another option; in fact, a prototype of Bernice's December 1999 wedding souvenir, an antique-finished resin candleholder of marine creatures, sits on the shelf. Recently, as well, the Anilao resort Eagle Point has commissioned the duo to help out with renovations, and Anna and Bernice have been busy designing lamps and other accessories.

And, they are quick to add, don't forget the "things" in Fish and Things. "That means we can do other designs outside of the ocean-inspired," Bernice says.

The cousins spend most of their time running around for their business instead of manning the little store; Anna is in charge of product development and marketing, while Bernice takes charge of finances and "cracking the whip," as Anna jokes. "Oh, yes, I'm the one who makes *kulit* when it's time for us to pay for things!" Bernice agrees.

Next on their agenda: Fish and Things T-shirts – and a dive trip to Layang-Layang in Malaysia. After all, water babies need their regular dip.

Contact Fish and Things at 0917-5209831, 0917-9479653, or fish_things@yahoo.com.

Quality Education... The gift that endures

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There is only one thing parents can leave their children that no one can ever take away from them: a good education. Once it's there, it cannot be misplaced, bought out, or stolen. It shapes the future of that child. It is an enduring gift.

Southville International School

The Southville International School campus at Tropical Ave. cor. Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City (E-mail: sis@sville.edu.ph)

Now, more than ever, a solid education is necessary to ensure a person's future success. Times have changed, widening the playing field, so much so that a person must think of himself not in a local, but in a global context. And the bottom line will not be the color of a person's skin or where a person came from. What is most important is what that person knows and what he or she can contribute in a globalized economy.

The knowledge of this has taken two young girls beyond the comfort of their homes and into the fasttrack world of London. Jaymie Trisha Tan and Cherriemaya Villanueva, both still in their teens, are first year students at the prestigious London School of Economics, the top economics school in England. Trisha is taking up economics and finance while Cherrie is studying law. They topped the list of international students who took the exams, enabling them to study in the "best social sciences school in England and the world."

TRISHA and Cherrie with their classmates at Bellerbys College.

TRISHA with her class in Southville International School (Tel. Nos. 825-6374/820-8703)

"It really feels good to be accepted because this was my first choice," says Trisha.

"It makes all our efforts worth it," adds Cherrie.

Getting to where they are now was by no means an easy task. They both started with a good foundation.

Trisha and Cherrie went to Southville International School in BF International, Las Piñas City. Recognized by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports as a SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE, **Southville International School** provided Trisha and Cherrie with the relevant and innovative programs that prepared them well for a London education. **Southville** is also internationally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), USA, the only DepEd school with this distinction. Southville has joined the ranks of other WASC accredited schools such as Stanford University, Pepperdine University, and the University of California.

"**Southville International School** taught us to think globally and act within our sphere of influence," says Cherrie. "The transition wasn't hard because of our training. It helped a lot that we spoke good English, thanks to the *Speak English Campaign* in Southville."

At **Southville International School**, English is the primary medium of instruction and through their *Speak English Campaign*, students acquire a good command of the language.

"Some of our classmates at Bellerbys College were smart but were not good in English so they had a difficult time," Cherrie notes.

Trisha explains that at Bellerbys College in the United Kingdom where they both took 15 months of studies for their advanced "A" levels, there were students from different nations. "We had classmates from Russia, Malaysia, India, Bulgaria, Germany, Libya, and Ethiopia," she says. " It felt like home because the environment in Southville was the same. There were a lot of international students."

Another similarity between Southville and their school in London was the freedom they experienced in and out of the classroom.

"The teaching methods in **Southville International School** allowed us to express our opinions," says Trisha, "and when we finally went on our own in another country, we experienced the feel of being really independent. We did not feel any tinge of being afraid."

They go on to recount their first real taste of running their own business while still in high school.

"In Southville, we have an Entrepreneurship Day where we have a stall and all the students have to sell something," says Trisha.

"We sold pasta and shakes and we really made a lot of money." Cherrie joins in. She adds that even in high school, students actively discuss how to manage a business and even a little bit of marketing. This is supplemented with various symposia with Chief -Executive-Officers of multinational companies coming in to speak to the students.

One of the programs that were most helpful to Trisha in her present course was the Portfolio Assessment for Southville Students or PASS, a program where the graduating grade school and high school students come up with their own **thesis** and defend it to a panel. This caps the school program in developing the students' higher thinking skills. They gain confidence and other skills necessary for higher education.

Southville's commitment to providing an education that will enable their students to become globally competitive has borne fruit, resulting in so many students opting to continue their studies abroad. Aside from Trisha and Cherrie, other Southville students who are now pursuing their college education in other countries are Michelle Sarile (London), Wallen Tan (London), Crizette Lañada (England), Jomyr Aquino (University of Seattle, US), Michelle Padilla (US), Maite Ortoll (US), Bea Pou (Irvine University, US), Marvin Jarabilla (US), Maggie Lauren Bach (US), Marivic Adecer (US), John Henry Macelo and Stephen Marcelo (Irvine College, US), Carlo Olegario (Australia), Rachanee Munar (Australia), Terry Kim (Korea), Nam Sang Eun (Korea) and Jacob Gube (India). They are just some of the students who now have a better perspective of what the world is like, aided by the training they received in Southville.

Asked why they chose an international education, Cherrie was quick to answer. "Going abroad means bigger opportunities and challenges. You become grown-up," she attests.

Trisha, who was at first reluctant to study abroad, now confesses to being thankful for the experience. "I have no regrets. I really learned a lot," she affirms. "You just have to be open to change and live a balanced life."

Cherrie goes on to say that the most important thing she learned in Southville was that one should set goals for oneself and enforce it upon oneself to achieve them. "Remember the things you learned from home because that's what keeps you sane."

Their expectations for the future are high. They only want to learn from the best so as to bring out the best in themselves like they did in **Southville International School.** Both of them are planning to pursue a Master's Degree and further their education. Cherrie wants to practice international law or help out in her father's firm, aside from her plans of running for public office one day. Trisha, on the other hand plans to work in London for a while before coming back to the Philippines. And both of them plan to settle down and raise a family someday.

And, by then, as future parents, they will know first-hand that the best gift they can give their children can be found, not in a wrapped package underneath a Christmas tree, but out there in the world – the irreplaceable experience of having quality education.

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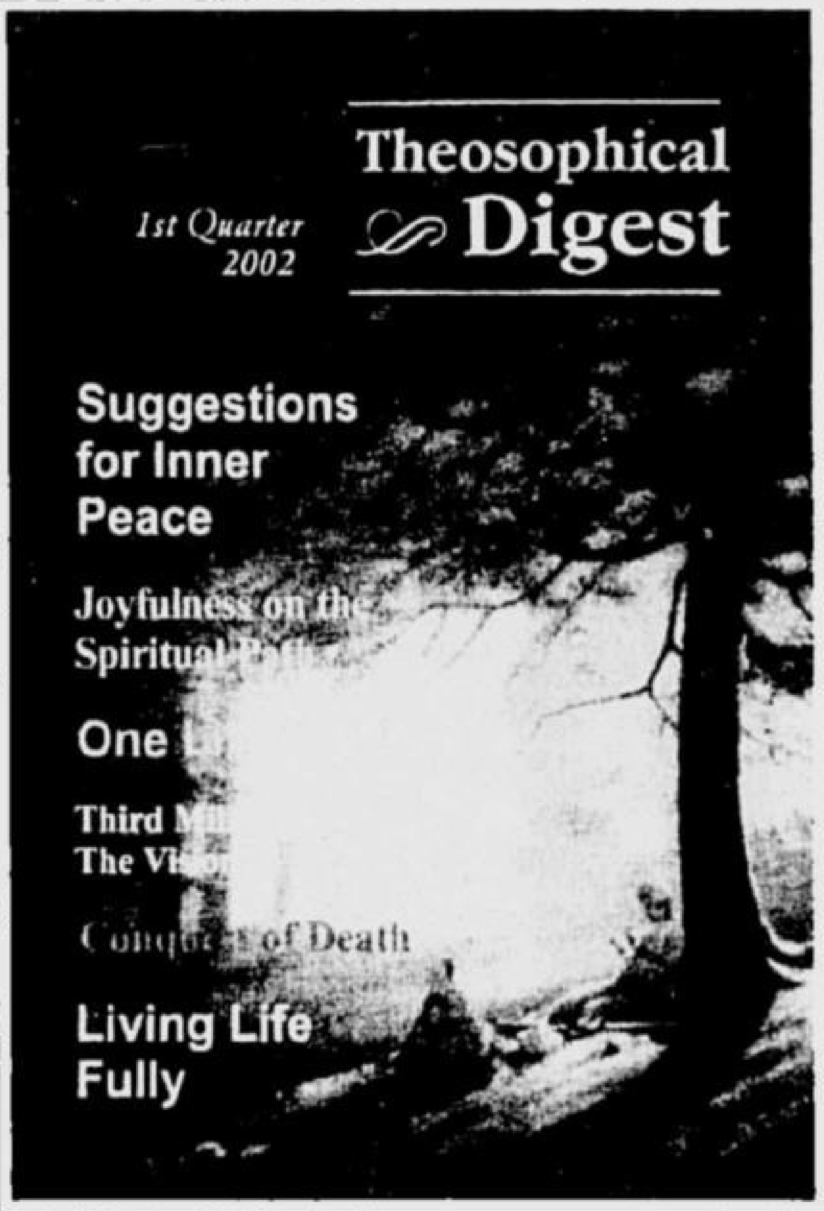
The spine of the mountain range
Undulates with the passing storm clouds,
From afar the wild boar challenges cutters.

Clovis L. Nazareno



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Music Makers

by Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

The agila has landed. From a Berkeley-based job with an environment NGO, Joey Ayala has come home to roost in the uncertain territory of the folk singer, offering depth and substance to people who prefer more than just flash and spectacle in their music

Solo Flight

"YOUR STORY'S GONE!" JOEY AYALA LAUGHS. "YOUR STORY'S GONE!"

I HAD INTENDED TO GRILL HIM ON HIS MOST RECENT REINCARNATION AS DIRECTOR OF BABILONIA WILNER FOUNDATION, A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD FOUNDATION "THAT CONNECTS PEOPLE AND FACILITATES A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS THAT AFFECT THE PHILIPPINES AND THE WORLD," WHEN I LEARN THAT HE'S NEVER GOING BACK. NEVER.

"What did I do as director?" he continues with his jesting. "I directed! *Eh hindi ako sanay sa ganoon karaming detalye.* (I'm not used to so much details). A little bit of office work, a little of administrative, a little bit of everything. But my standards are so high that every time I made a I mistake, I'd stay up at night, flagellating myself. It wasn't good for me."

This venerable singer-composer, who popularized the use of ethnic instruments in mainstream music, thought it would be an adventure, an exciting experiment that would take him away from the local entertainment scene ("which was dead for me, anyway"), into the inevitable:

Mike Alquinto

The olden days: Joey with Bagong Lumad, spectacle and all

change. Joey was offered the post after the BWF produced an album (now on sale in Berkeley, California) that he had proposed a year before. His having taken a Program Development Course at the Asian Institute of Management and his staunch views on the preservation of the environment and Filipino culture made him a shoe-in for the job. He left shortly after he and composer Louie Ocampo had won the Metropop Festival with *"Pag-Uwi."*

"I got confused," Joey admits of the directorship. "I didn't feel too comfortable with it precisely because I didn't know where I fit in." At the time of this interview, he had just finished his final meeting with some BWF people at the CCP, and he still seems bemused. "They asked what I could do. I couldn't propose a specific thing or program…" On his final days at Berkeley, he even proposed coming in as a "volunteer worker just to take on the (tasks)" they wanted him to do. "But even with that," he adds, "I had to step back and reassess. I've come to associate working there with failure. I couldn't take it because my standards are so high."

His contract ended late last year, after five months of "facing my inner monsters." He realized, he adds, "how dependent I was on other people for certain things, how disorganized I was." Then he drops the "b" word. "I burnt out. Maybe because I couldn't talk to anyone. I had friends, *pero hindi ganoon kalalim* (but they were just on a superficial level). I was relying purely on my own judgment and I can be hard on myself. It just hit me so hard."

Asked about specific instances, he gives this anecdote instead: "I went on a walk in the woods, and I got to the office late. So *nataranta lahat!* (Everyone panicked!). But I really thought I had to go on a walk in the woods because there was no other day to go. When I came back, everyone was like, 'Why? You're the director!'"

Which may be interpreted as: when the *agila* takes flight, you have to let him go even if it means momentary disorder in the nest. It doesn't mean he's gone forever—it may be that he just had to stretch his wings, glide over the earth and commune with the heavens to which he belongs. He'll come back, eventually. Only this time, Joey decided to fly back to his own country and roost in the unexplored territories of a folk singer.

The most successful musician to have broken from cult to international following—without ever having to compromise his contempo-indigenous musical style and message about man's innate connection to nature— is reinventing himself as that person you've always ignored before the main act came onstage.

"It's something I've never done before," he says. In their heyday, Joey Ayala and Bagong Lumad were a package deal. They toured the Philippines, Japan, India, Canada, and the US. The setting-up of their instruments on stage was a production in itself—all those gongs, the *kulintang*, plus the contemporary electric bass guitar and drum kit. Joey Ayala, center of it all, would prance about in his native-woven vests and trademark *hegalong*.

Joey Ayala and Bagong Lumad produced five albums and churned out hits like *"Tabi Po,"* "Machine Answering," *"Karaniwang Tao," "Ania-na."* They reached out to ecological advocates, political activists, ethnic culture aficionados and masses alike. Still, Joey doesn't "feel like re-activating" the band. "We weren't active when I left. We hadn't been active for quite a while. It's too much effort to get a manager, a booking agent, organizer, rehearse the set, ah!" It's a novelty to hear someone usually so exuberant sound so exasperated.

"I'm 'downsizing'," he smiles.

The shift isn't really a shock at all, when you think about it. Joey Ayala, and others like him, are always in tune with the times, with the subtle energies of the cosmos. When he came back, he found his old work, *"Walang Hanggang Paalam,"* being used for the award-winning film *"Bagong Buwan,"* which he took as a sign of the Philippines' "still needing me here, letting me know *na* 'hey, ok *pa yan…*'

"Maybe that's why I'm thinking this way because I've always worked in a vacuum. Vacuums suck me in. *Nasasalat ko yung butas. O eto, korteng ganito yan eh* (I can tell how things are going to fall into place). I felt the same in '86 when the band came over from Davao. I was telling my bandmates, 'Hey you guys, wanna become famous? Come with me. Let's go, let's rehearse, and let's do this'. And in five, six years, we were here, we were launched. We lasted seven years. Then after seven years, here I am again. It's a seven-year cycle. Very interesting."

Very interesting, indeed, is the way Joey embraces his new persona. "When you're playing with the band, it's loud and it has a spectacle about it. It's easier when you're alone. I figure as a folk singer it will be easier for me. It's less expensive, and I think the depth of my work will be better known because it's cheaper, it's easier to move. One persuasion of having a band is that it mushrooms everything—the sound system, lights, entourage, *pamasahe* (travel costs), and you still don't earn all that much. With just me, my guitar and my voice, the cost is reduced and you still get the national name, Joey Ayala." He says this matter-of-factly, with no hint of hubris.

"It's different when you play alone. It's cathartic. The audience rapport is different. *Iba ang laro niya, wala kang pinapanigan na ibang musikero* (it's a different game, you don't have to turn to other musicians) to catch you when you're tired. It's a different kind of effort. You don't see too many people doing that, especially with original songs, so I'm kind of hoping people will start appreciating that, and start appreciating depth more than flash."

Depth and substance are a big thing for Joey, who can still pack a house sans the more commercially viable rhythms of R&B and hey-baby lyrics. "Performers will always outnumber good material and producers. Or good songs with melodies, with good—I don't necessarily mean great—but satisfying meaning. Substantial and satisfying meaning songs that say more than I-miss-you-I-love-you, or say it in a novel, refreshing way."

He gives audiences just that during his gigs on Mondays, 9 p.m., at '70s Bistro. Behold: a more personal, less flamboyant Joey Ayala. The band is gone; so are Joey's costumes and hair ("at Berkeley I was spending too much time trying to make it look decent"). It's just him and his guitar, with sister Cynthia Alexander occasionally and gamely stepping in for a song or two, or friends like Bayang Barrios joining him in a duet. Things will probably go on this way, while he ponders his next move and waits for Universal Records' response on producing the Philippine version of his Berkeley-released album.

I visited the place on a Wednesday, while he pinch-hit for Noel Cabangon. Joey hasn't lost his touch at all. People still stream in well after 12 midnight; they are a smattering of UP types—the student, the artist, the poet, the activist, the mountaineer—and your occasional yuppie still in corporate gear. They sing along to the lyrics embedded in their minds and own personal philosophies.

From *"Wala Nang Tao Sa Sta. Filomena"* and *"Walang Hanggang Paalam"* to more popular covers by Cat Stevens like "Father and Son" and "You Got a Friend," he has the crowd firmly in his hands. "You get the depth of the work, and I get to talk to people, get more intimate in my presentations," he continues.

And like the noble eagle which Joey Ayala has sung about time and again, he still soars.

Cover Story

by Ruel S. De Vera

Filipino photojournalist Albert Garcia's unforgettable shot of an erupting Mount Pinatubo was recently declared one of the best photographs ever published by the prestigious National Geographic Magazine. It's only the latest accolade for a man who has devoted his life to being in the right place at the right time

Mastering the Moment

EVEN THE MOST SINGULARLY GIFTED OF PHOTOGRAPHERS CAN SPEND AN ENTIRE LIFETIME JUST WAITING FOR THE MOMENT TO TAKE THAT PERFECT SHOT. FOR ALBERT GARCIA, THAT MOMENT CAME WITH AN ALMOST BIBLICAL SENSE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE. IN THE MIDDLE OF 1991, ALBERT, TOGETHER WITH PHOTOJOURNALISTS FROM MANY OF THE COUNTRY'S DAILIES, STAKED OUT MOUNT PINATUBO, THEN IN THE MIDDLE OF CATASTROPHIC CONVULSIONS. ON ASSIGNMENT FOR TIME MAGAZINE, ALBERT HAD FELT DEFEATED BECAUSE NOTHING SEEMED TO BE HAPPENING. "I HAD ONE WEEK AND IT WAS ALREADY THE SIXTH DAY," HE RECALLS IN FILIPINO. "I WAS HOPING THAT I COULD GET SOMETHING BIG THAT DAY."

And on that sixth day, the mountain became a creature of pure fire. "It just exploded," Albert says. Suddenly, an unimaginably huge wave of ash came hurtling down the mountain's slopes, disintegrating everything in its path. The photographers ran for their lives to their waiting vehicles, screaming at their drivers to get going. They could smell the wave getting closer as the pillar of ash seemed to be gaining speed.

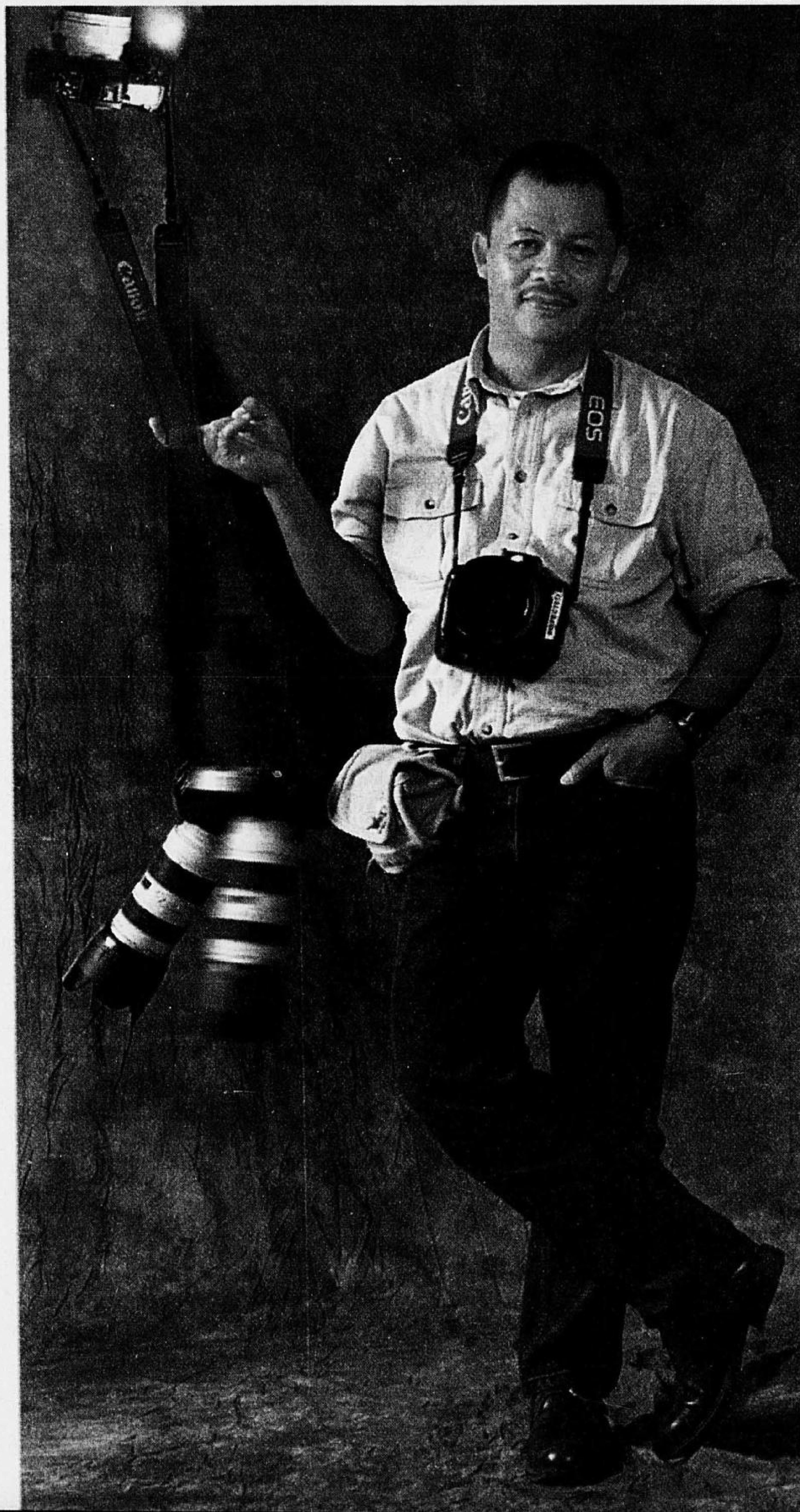
In a desperate convoy of three vehicles, Albert's van was in the middle. After pulling off his gas mask, he could see the ash wave right behind them, chasing them as if it had a mind of its own, as if it wanted them. "I thought that we were all going to die and I wanted to get photos somehow," he remembers, "but then I looked back out of the van, and I saw it." It was a single moment of clarity amid the chaos, creation at the foot of Mount Doom. "I saw the perfect shot."

THAT Albert would find the perfect photograph in a true life-and-death moment does not even begin to tell the convoluted path he took to becoming a top lensman. One would think that, with a professional photographer for a father, it would be easy for Albert to follow the path. But Albert's father, the late Manila Bulletin chief photographer Luis Garcia, didn't want his son to follow his example.

"He thought I would have better chances with some other job," Albert remembers. "He wanted me to be anything but." Yet whenever Luis would come home from a particularly fruitful or exciting shoot and tell his wife about it, Albert, the eldest among the brood of Luis' second wife Maximina, would be right there, listening avidly. Albert loved those stories, longed to be part of that same adventure. "*Parang ang sarap maging* photographer."

Because his father refused to teach him, Albert had to learn everything on his own, reading books and fiddling with cameras whenever he could. "It was really trial and error." In fact, his father went so far as to hide the cameras so Albert couldn't use them. At 19, Albert was studying Marine Transportation at the Philippine Maritime Institute when he discovered that his father was no longer using one of the older cameras at home. He pounced on the piece of machinery and was soon shooting at friends' parties, at baptisms and birthdays: "I would shoot at any occasion just to get practice."

So, instead of becoming a seaman, Albert decided to try and become a photographer anyway. He went to the Bulletin first, but because there was a rule barring relatives from working in the same staff at the paper, Albert took the first available job – as a librarian in 1976. But that failed to deter him. "Soon, I was assigned to file all the photographs, so I would look at them, learn from them."



Ernie U. Sarmiento

Filipino photojournalist Albert Garcia's [illegible] Mount Pinatubo was recently [illegible]

[illegible]

by Ruel S. De Vera

Mastering the Moment

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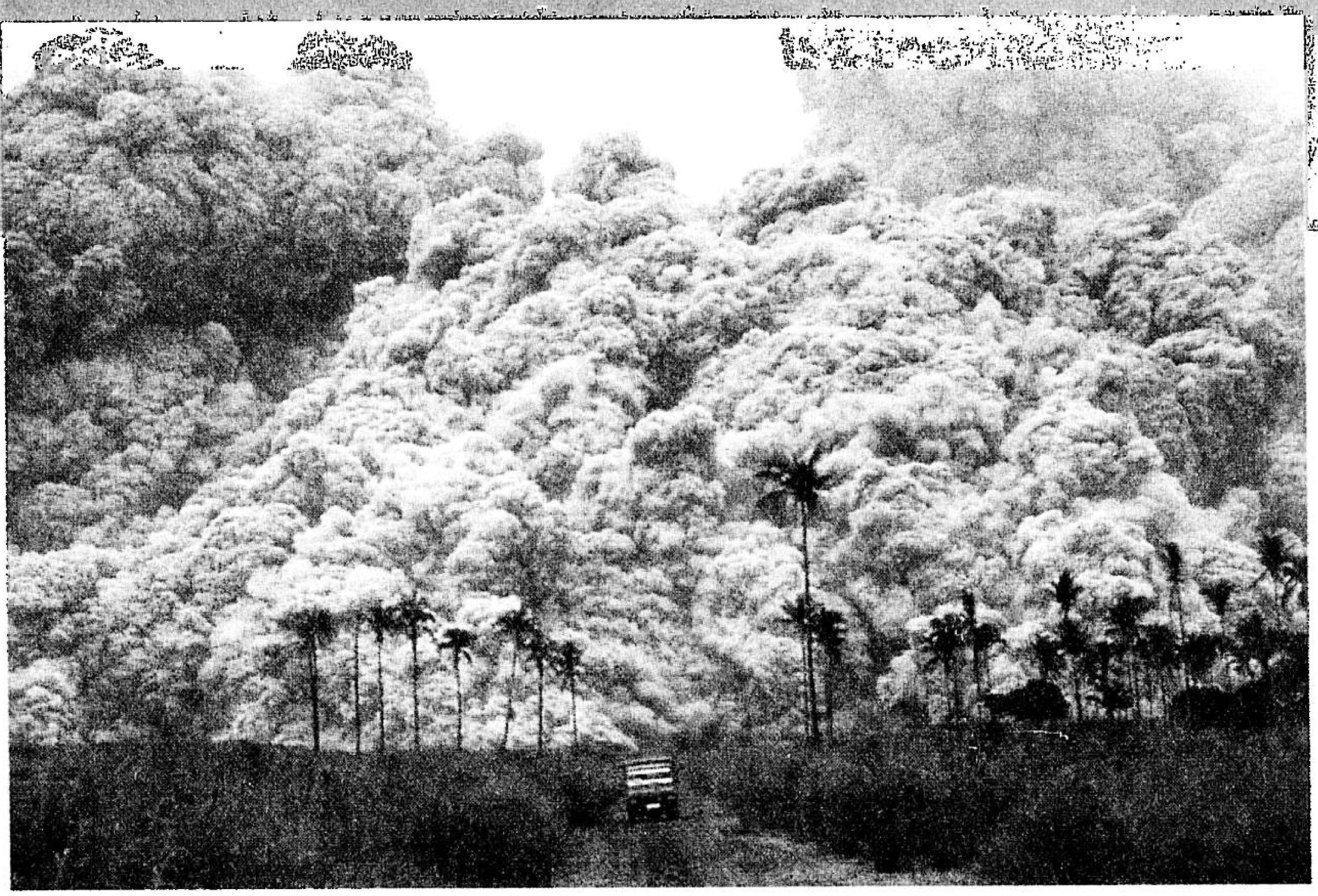

Because his job began at 1 p.m. and ran into the late hours, Albert would leave home early with his camera and then go all over Manila. He would then head for the Bulletin library. He would submit these photos to the daily, and soon they were getting published. "Because I was at the office until very late," Albert explains, "I would sometimes run out and leave the library if there was a fire nearby, and if there was nobody at the photo department." He would also begin winning photo contests.

He would not stay a librarian for long. In 1982, he finally became a full-time professional photojournalist when he was named chief photographer at the Bulletin's sister tabloid Tempo. After a few years of shooting full-time, he felt drawn to the world of freelancing: "I wanted to see my photos in Time Magazine and Newsweek." In 1984, he joined the photo agency Gamma Liaison, and soon his photos did indeed appear in those magazines. He quit his job and became a full time freelance photographer in 1986. He would later move on to US-based Saba Press Photos (after being bought by the Microsoft conglomerate, the agency is now known as Corbis Saba). "I was shooting all over Asia. It was really exciting." But his literal and figurative trial by fire was just beginning. In 1991, in the heart of Zambales, the primal force of nature that was Mount Pinatubo regained fiery life. And Albert's life would never be the same again.

EVEN though he was being pursued by tons of hot ash, Albert's photographer's instincts kicked in. In that slow motion world that photographers inhabit, he saw the last of the three vehicles just barely staying ahead of that menacing yet strangely beautiful wall of gray. Moving quickly, he looked at it through different lenses and speeds, set his camera on manual and settled on an opening of 8 and a speed of 250. Making up his mind, he swung the door open even as a companion photographer in the van yelped. The van suddenly reeked of fumes. Swinging into action, he focused and shot eight frames. "*Pare*," he said quickly, "*tingnan mo, ang ganda* (Look at it. It's beautiful.)." He shut the door and lay back, praying he had gotten the right shot. "Logically, I knew we might die, that the ash might catch up with us. But I was totally focused on my shots."

Meanwhile, the convoy continued to race, trying to stay ahead of the murderous cloud behind them. Finally, the vans ran over a high embankment, and finally outran the cloud. The three vans stopped, and joyous, tearful photographers ran out shouting, "We survived!" Meanwhile, Albert was busy.

Despite the fact he only had those eight shots, Albert rewound the entire roll and placed it in his pant pocket. "When we got back to town, the other photographers were celebrating, but all I could think about were my shots." After returning to Manila, Albert quickly ran to a developing center and waited anxiously. When he finally got the negatives, he rolled them out and immediately saw The Shot. "*May paglalagyan itong litratong ito* (This shot can be published somewhere)," he knew. Albert soon had the negatives on a plane out of the country and a week after, the photograph that would become the most famous image of the Mount Pinatubo eruption ran in a two-page Time Magazine spread. Later that year, Newsweek would name it one of the year's best pictures. It would become an immortal image of the sheer power of nature, and the precariousness of our existence. It would also make Albert famous. But even he didn't have any idea just how big the picture would be.

LEAVING the freelance life, Albert joined the Manila Times in 1999 as photo editor and remains at that post today, surviving all the changes in ownership. He is married to wife Cora and has three children: Ma. Louise, 21, Ma. Mabel, 18, and Albert Andre, 16. In his spare time, Albert plays a lot of golf or fiddles around with plants. But being an editor does not keep him behind a desk. "Every chance I get I leave the office to shoot," he says. "That's what I live for." He loves the lure of real life, the rush that comes with news and sports.

His pictorial adventures have always been impressive. In 1984, he remembers when a policeman went amok and started shooting people until his gun ran out of bullets. Albert was right there, unflinchingly capturing on film a man committing murder. Yet Albert was often in harm's way, as well. In 1986, while on assignment in the war-torn Cagayan Valley, an army convoy Albert was travelling with was ambushed by New People's Army guerillas. Death and bullets rained all around, and in the ensuing gunbattle, veteran lensman Willie Vicoy would be killed. Albert survived, but his equipment did not. "I didn't get any photos out of that," he shudders. "I was just happy to survive." In those cases, as in the Pinatubo incident, Albert says there is fear, but his need to take the shot is stronger.

Bizarrely enough, Albert isn't patient when it comes to other things. "When it comes to photos, I can wait for a very long time," he smiles, "but when it comes to other things, I can get impatient really quickly." He has made a graceful transition into the digital world, using all the advantages given by the computer, except one. "I really don't like using digital cameras. It's just not the same. You feel removed from your subject, and you can't roll out the negative and look at it." Thus he stays fastidiously old-fashioned with his cameras, taking shots here and there. Ask him about his weapon of choice, and it has to be his beloved Canon EOS3. But however it starts, the talk eventually goes back to The Shot.

HE doesn't mind being linked so closely to a single image. "Ever since I took that shot, it's really that photo that's kept me going financially." The Shot continued to pick up momentum – and worldwide accolades the likes of which no Filipino lensman had ever seen. In 1992, the prestigious World Press Photo Foundation awarded the Pinatubo photo First Prize in the Singles for Nature and the Environment category, besting photos from all over the planet.

But even greater honors awaited The Shot. In 1999, Time Magazine published a book called "Time: Great Images of the 20th Century," seeking to present, in its own words, "the photographs that define our time." And there, together with such powerful images as Ali's knockdown of Sonny Liston, of the Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima, the Fall of Saigon and the Zapruder footage of the JFK assassination, was Albert Garcia's testament to the power of Pinatubo. Even today, Albert is overwhelmed by the honor of having his work named among the century's best, placing him in the company of his idols such as Christopher Morris and James Nachtwey. "It's really just luck," he responds.

One more accolade arrived recently. In 2001, National Geographic, the dream publication for lensmen everywhere, published a book called "National Geographic: 100 Best Pictures." This collection, according to Geographic Editor-in-Chief William L. Allen, "is the greatest collection of photographs ever published by one magazine." And there, on a two-page spread on pages 129 and 130, is Albert's Pinatubo photo, with no borders, no text. Just the power of nature, through Albert's eyes, frozen forever in time.

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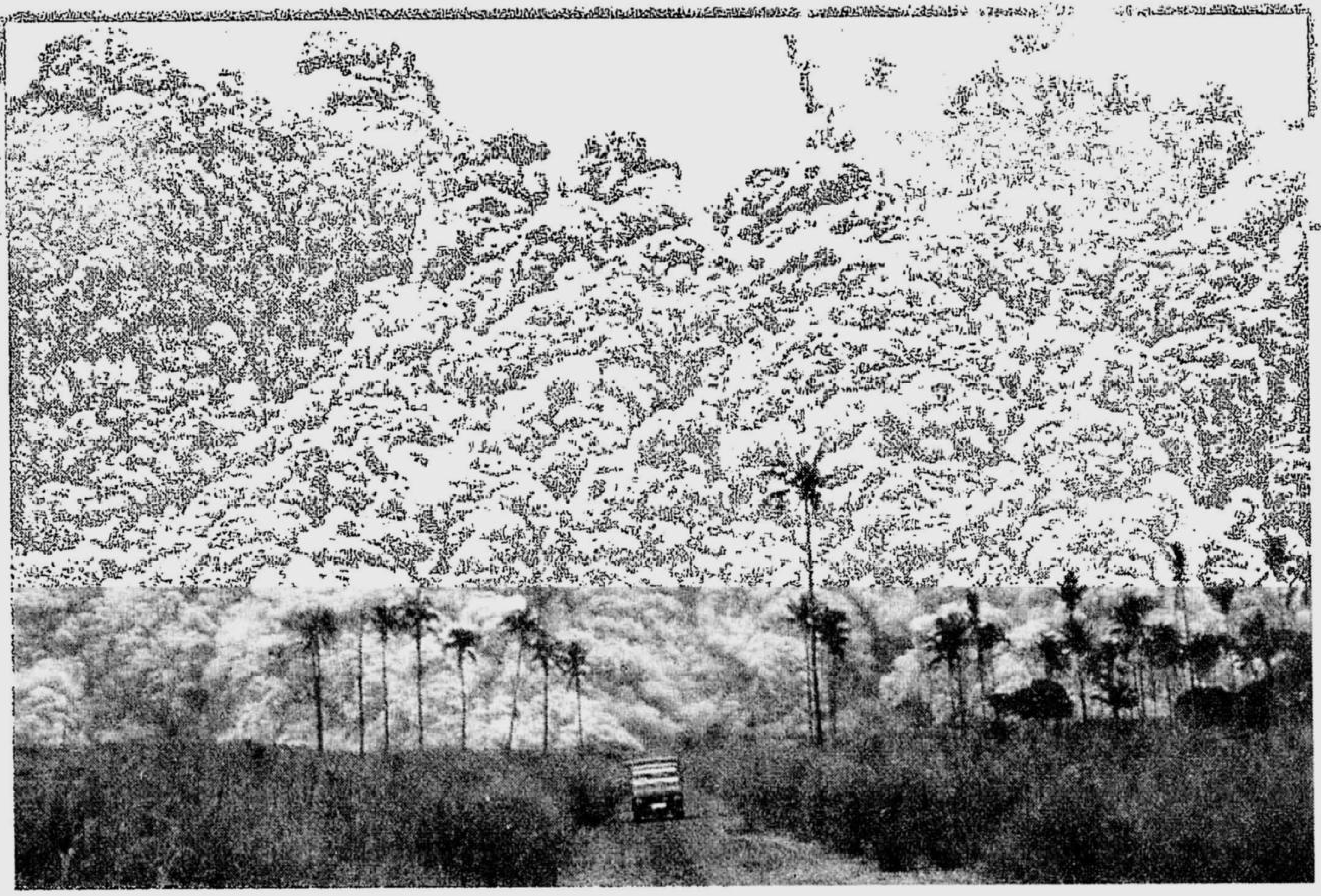

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EVEN though he was being pursued by tons of hot ash, Albert's photographer's instincts kicked in. In that slow motion world that photographers inhabit, he saw the last of the three vehicles just barely staying ahead of that menacing yet strangely beautiful wall of gray. Moving quickly, he looked at it through different lenses and speeds, set his camera on manual and settled on an opening of 8 and a speed of 250. Making up his mind, he swung the door open even as a companion photographer in the van yelped. The van suddenly reeked of fumes. Swinging into action, he focused and shot eight frames. "*Pare*," he said quickly, "*tingnan mo, ang ganda* (Look at it. It's beautiful.)." He shut the door and lay back, praying he had gotten the right shot. "Logically, I knew we might die, that the ash might catch up with us. But I was totally focused on my shots."

Meanwhile, the convoy continued to race, trying to stay ahead of the murderous cloud behind them. Finally, the vans ran over a high embankment, and finally outran the cloud. The three vans stopped, and joyous, tearful photographers ran out shouting, "We survived!" Meanwhile, Albert was busy.

Despite the fact he only had those eight shots, Albert rewound the entire roll and placed it in his pant pocket. "When we got back to town, the other photographers were celebrating, but all I could think about were my shots." After returning to Manila, Albert quickly ran to a developing center and waited anxiously. When he finally got the negatives, he rolled them out and immediately saw The Shot. "*May paglalagyan itong litratong ito* (This shot can be published somewhere)," he knew. Albert soon had the negatives on a plane out of the country and a week after, the photograph that would become the most famous image of the Mount Pinatubo eruption ran in a two-page Time Magazine spread. Later that year, Newsweek would name it one of the year's best pictures. It would become an immortal image of the sheer power of nature, and the precariousness of our existence. It would also make Albert famous. But even he didn't have any idea just how big the picture would be.

LEAVING the freelance life, Albert joined the Manila Times in 1999 as photo editor and remains at that post today, surviving all the changes in ownership. He is married to wife Cora and has three children: Ma. Louise, 21, Ma. Mabel, 18, and Albert Andre, 16. In his spare time, Albert plays a lot of golf or fiddles around with plants. But being an editor does not keep him behind a desk. "Every chance I get I leave the office to shoot," he says. "That's what I live for." He loves the lure of real life, the rush that comes with news and sports.

His pictorial adventures have always been impressive. In 1984, he remembers when a policeman went amok and started shooting people until his gun ran out of bullets. Albert was right there, unflinchingly capturing on film a man committing murder. Yet Albert was often in harm's way, as well. In 1986, while on assignment in the war-torn Cagayan Valley, an army convoy Albert was travelling with was ambushed by New People's Army guerillas. Death and bullets rained all around, and in the ensuing gunbattle, veteran lensman Willie Vicoy would be killed. Albert survived, but his equipment did not. "I didn't get any photos out of that," he shudders. "I was just happy to survive." In those cases, as in the Pinatubo incident, Albert says there is fear, but his need to take the shot is stronger.

Bizarrely enough, Albert isn't patient when it comes to other things. "When it comes to photos, I can wait for a very long time," he smiles, "but when it comes to other things, I can get impatient really quickly." He has made a graceful transition into the digital world, using all the advantages given by the computer, except one. "I really don't like using digital cameras. It's just not the same. You feel removed from your subject, and you can't roll out the negative and look at it." Thus he stays fastidiously old-fashioned with his cameras, taking shots here and there. Ask him about his weapon of choice, and it has to be his beloved Canon EOS3. But however it starts, the talk eventually goes back to The Shot.

HE doesn't mind being linked so closely to a single image. "Ever since I took that shot, it's really that photo that's kept me going financially." The Shot continued to pick up momentum – and worldwide accolades the likes of which no Filipino lensman had ever seen. In 1992, the prestigious World Press Photo Foundation awarded the Pinatubo photo First Prize in the Singles for Nature and the Environment category, besting photos from all over the planet.

But even greater honors awaited The Shot. In 1999, Time Magazine published a book called "Time: Great Images of the 20th Century," seeking to present, in its own words, "the photographs that define our time." And there, together with such powerful images as Ali's knockdown of Sonny Liston, of the Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima, the Fall of Saigon and the Zapruder footage of the JFK assassination, was Albert Garcia's testament to the power of Pinatubo. Even today, Albert is overwhelmed by the honor of having his work named among the century's best, placing him in the company of his idols such as Christopher Morris and James Nachtwey. "It's really just luck," he responds.

One more accolade arrived recently. In 2001, National Geographic, the dream publication for lensmen everywhere, published a book called "National Geographic: 100 Best Pictures." This collection, according to Geographic Editor-in-Chief William L. Allen, "is the greatest collection of photographs ever published by one magazine." And there, on a two-page spread on pages 129 and 130, is Albert's Pinatubo photo, with no borders, no text. Just the power of nature, through Albert's eyes, frozen forever in time.

To page 15

Onstage

by Walter Ang

photographs by Val Handumon

After a Fulbright scholarship and experience on and off Broadway, gifted young production designer Gino Gonzales comes home to work, and to prove the sheer power of stage design

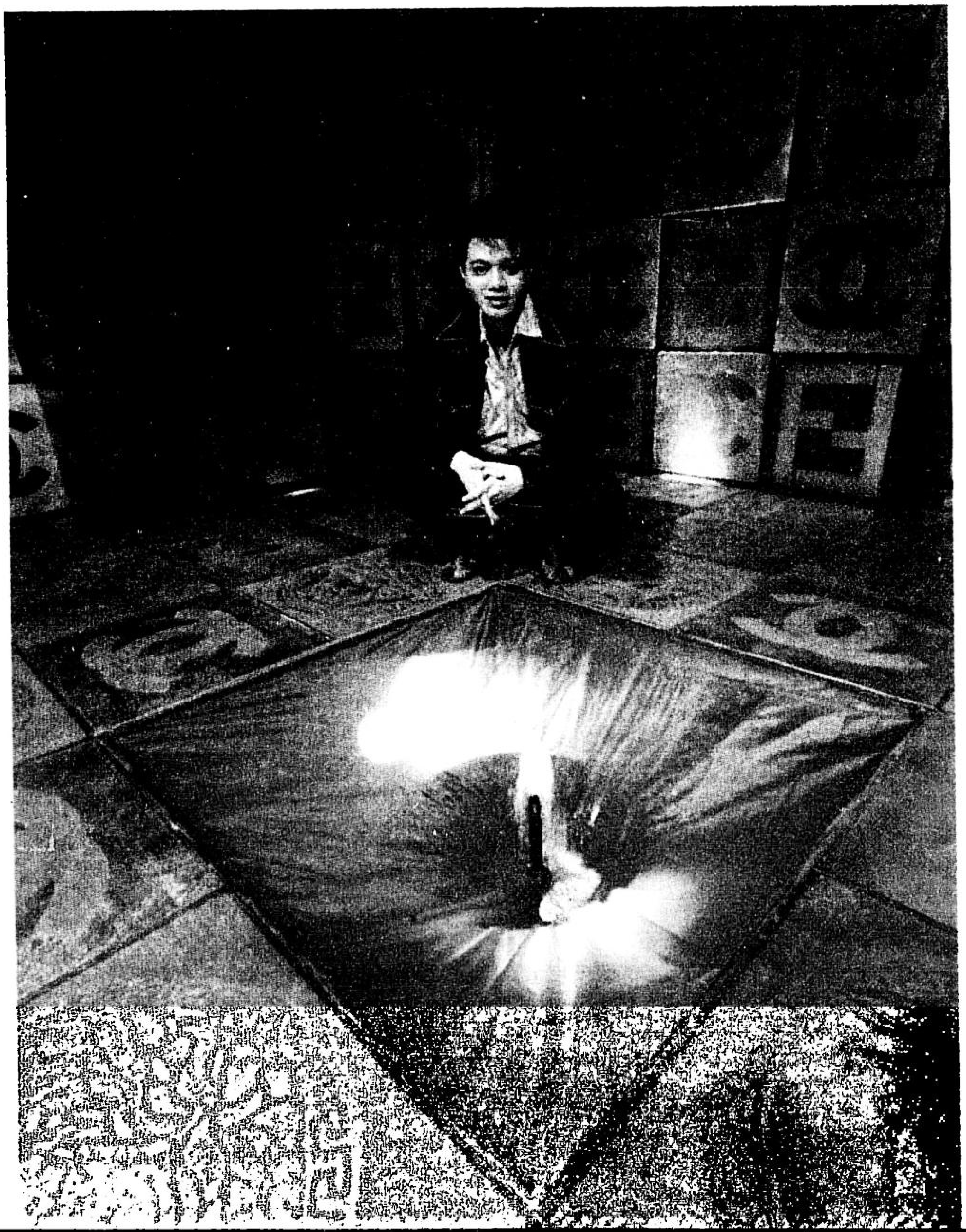
Shaper of Things to Come

WHEN GINO GONZALES WAS A CHILD, HE LOOKED FORWARD TO PROCESSIONS. HE JUST COULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH OF THE POMP, THE MUSIC, THE ASSORTED FOLK AND COSTUMES THAT LIFT SUCH EVENTS FROM THE DOLDRUMS OF SUMMER.

It would be this seminal "fascination for visual spectacle" that would ultimately shape his future as a production designer. Gino took up Communication at the Ateneo, worked in public relations for exactly two weeks and knew irrevocably that he "wanted to do theater."

In college, he had assisted renown production designer Salvador "Badong" Bernal in several plays for the student theater group Tanghalang Ateneo and went on to his first professional stint: designing for the musical "*Alikabok*."

The curtain has since risen on Gino's career as he went on creating shapes, spaces, textures, silhouettes, colors and forms for actors and audiences alike. Constantly encouraged by his mentor Badong Bernal to take up further studies abroad, Gino found that serendipity would eventually take him there.



Making faces. Gonzales (third from left) with the stylized make-up and costumes of the cast of CCP's "Ang Sinungaling"

While some Fulbright officials were in town, he managed to score an interview and subsequently a scholarship from them. When the Asian Cultural Council directors were visiting Manila, he got an interview with them as well, clinching a grant for his living expenses.

So in 1998, with the blessings of his doctor father and landscape designer mother, off Gino went to New York University to pursue a three-year Masters in Fine Arts Degree in Theater Design. Early on during his studies, one of his professors started literally ripping apart his scale model. "I kept saying, 'No, no, no!' and all my classmates were laughing," Gino recounts with a smile. "He just did it – no apologies, no explanations. He moved things around, and afterwards, the design seemed much better. It taught me to be more critical of my work."

The intense training was not lost on this particular student. "I feel lucky I was able to work with brilliant professors whom I trusted. Studying was a joy." The joy faltered a bit in the beginning when Gino found his course "tough and demanding." He was "ready to go back to Manila during the first semester," he confesses.

Gino's epiphany came when he caught an opera with a production design that made him cry. "It was the sheer beauty of it all. When it moves you like that, you realize what design can do to touch your audience. I wanted to do that." Of course, things are always easier said than done. "I thought the work I'd done in Manila would prepare me for working in the U.S. I was wrong. The work ethic is so different," Gino reveals. "I had to prove myself."

This tall and lanky artist stuck to his (glue) guns, worked 18-hour days with his classmates, got to train with international theater personalities both off and on Broadway, was recommended by his department chair to design the costumes for the world premiere of Filipino American playwright Han Ong's "Middle Finger," and, not surprisingly, graduated

with a prestigious Seidman Award and a Meler Award under his belt. Whew!

Returning to the Philippines in September last year, Gino planned on taking a vacation. No way. Projects were waiting for him. First up, he was tasked to design the set for Philippine Ballet Theater's well-received "Shoes." He filled the stage with plastic shoeboxes and turned it into a funky, pseudo-department store. Next, the Philippine Association of Theater Designers and Technicians (PATDAT) appointed him assistant curator for their "*Hugis at Hubog*" exhibit at the Metropolitan Musuem. This unique exhibit of designs from the performing arts showcases the creative output of the country's foremost designers and craftsmen in sets, props, costumes, and lighting.

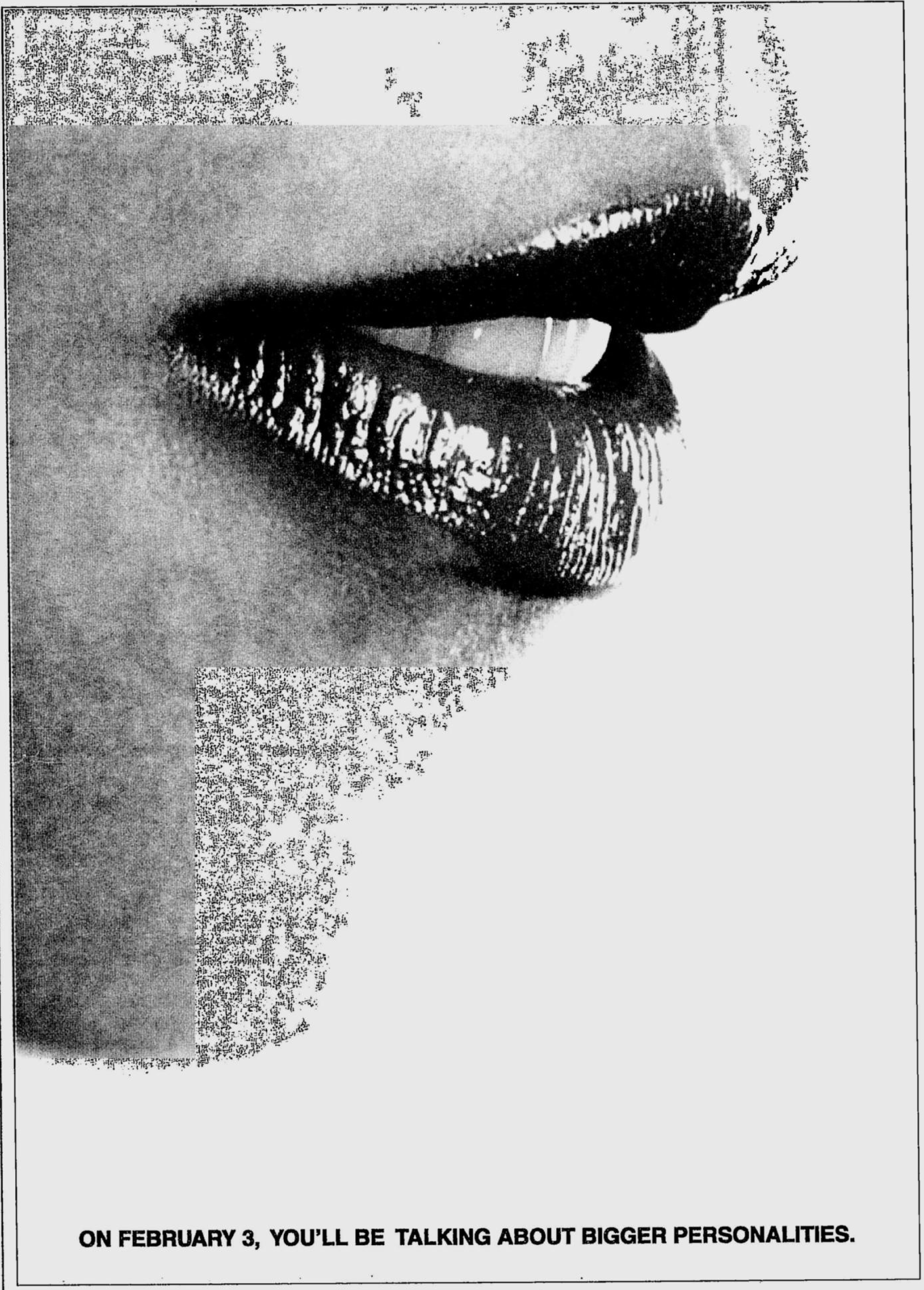
In the exhibit, this 28-year-old's designs as presented in sketches and scale models are shown side by side with the works of the country's most prolific and renowned designers, among them Eric Cruz ("El Camino Real"), Bobot Lota ("Rent"), and husband and wife team Benny and Liz Batoctoy ("Little Mermaid").

Selecting the best works from "hundreds and rows and rows" of sketches, photographs and other pieces for the exhibit was no easy task. "We decided to be brutal with our standards," reveals Gino. "Even my pieces had to go through the same rigid screening." One easily sees how the same standards are applied to his working methods as well.

Gino considers research as essential in arriving at the desired final design. Research is an aspect of production design that he feels is usually taken for granted in the local industry. "Anything you put into a design has to have weight. It has to mean something. It can't be arbitrary," he explains. Never sticking to just any one signature style, Gino constantly reinvents his approach to design by gleaning inspiration from whatever material he works with. "Depending on the show, I can be inspired by the text or the music or other aspects."

As the year begins, Gino is currently tackling the production design requirements of Tanghalang Pilipino's *"Ang Sinungaling"* by Carlos Goldoni. Despite his hectic homecoming, Gino is not complaining. "I'm committed to coming back and being part of the driving force that will help the local industry," he says proudly. Audiences will surely have much to look forward to in the shape of things to come.

"Hugis and Hubog" moves to the CCP this month.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AMOUNT OF MONTHLY PREMIUMS

AGE	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT
0	P 810.45	914.65	1,572.15	1,780.55	2,333.85	2,646.45	3,095.55	3,512.35	3,857.25	4,378.25	7,665.75	8,707.75	15,282.75	17,366.75
1	842.95	954.75	1,637.15	1,860.75	2,431.35	2,766.75	3,225.55	3,672.75	4,019.75	4,578.75	7,990.75	9,108.75	15,932.75	18,168.75
2	885.35	1,005.55	1,721.95	1,962.35	2,558.55	2,919.15	3,395.15	3,875.95	4,231.75	4,832.75	8,414.75	9,616.75	16,780.75	19,184.75
3	936.55	1,065.75	1,824.35	2,082.75	2,712.15	3,099.75	3,599.95	4,116.75	4,487.75	5,133.75	8,926.75	10,218.75	17,804.75	20,388.75
4	991.75	1,130.55	1,934.75	2,212.35	2,877.75	3,294.15	3,820.75	4,375.95	4,763.75	5,457.75	9,478.75	10,866.75	18,908.75	21,684.75
5	1,052.75	1,201.95	2,056.75	2,355.15	3,060.75	3,508.35	4,064.75	4,661.55	5,068.75	5,814.75	10,088.75	11,580.75	20,128.75	23,112.75
6	1,117.35	1,277.75	2,185.95	2,506.75	3,254.55	3,735.75	4,323.15	4,964.75	5,391.75	6,193.75	10,734.75	12,338.75	21,420.75	24,628.75
7	1,188.65	1,361.05	2,328.55	2,673.35	3,468.45	3,985.65	4,608.35	5,297.95	5,748.25	6,610.25	11,447.75	13,171.75	22,846.75	26,294.75
8	1,266.15	1,451.55	2,483.55	2,854.35	3,700.95	4,257.15	4,918.35	5,659.95	6,135.75	7,062.75	12,222.75	14,076.75	24,396.75	28,104.75
9	1,352.85	1,552.05	2,656.95	3,055.35	3,961.05	4,558.65	5,265.15	6,061.95	6,569.25	7,565.25	13,089.75	15,081.75	26,130.75	30,114.75
10	1,448.85	1,663.25	2,848.95	3,277.75	4,249.05	4,892.25	5,649.15	6,506.75	7,049.25	8,121.25	14,049.75	16,193.75	28,050.75	32,338.75
11	1,561.25	1,791.85	3,073.75	3,534.95	4,586.25	5,278.05	6,098.75	7,021.15	7,611.25	8,764.25	15,173.75	17,479.75	30,298.75	34,910.75

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ZAO 02A3I

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Name:
Relationship to Payor-Owner:
Address:
Postal Code: **Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):** / / **Age:**
Place of Birth: **Sex:** ☐ **MALE** ☐ **FEMALE**

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT/OWNER/PAYOR

Name:
Home Address: **Postal Code:**
Home Tel. / Fax: **Date of Birth** *(mm/dd/yy)*: / /
Age: **Sex:** ☐ **MALE** ☐ **FEMALE** **Place of Birth:**
Occupation: **Company:**
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I prefer to pay the premiums: ☐ **Monthly** ☐ **Quarterly** ☐ **Semi-annually** ☐ **Annually**

In case of premium default, I elect (check one only):

☐ **Automatic Payment of Premium** ☐ **Extended Term Insurance**

In the absence of such election and should the premium due continue to be in default until the end of the grace period provided in the Policy, this Policy shall automatically continue in force as non-participating Extended Term Insurance.

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	PAYOR	*CHILD*
1. What is your height?	______	______
2. What is your weight?	______	______
3. Have you consulted a physician for medical attention or surgical advice, or been confined to a hospital, sanitarium or similar institution during the past five (5) years?	☐ YES ☐ NO	☐ YES ☐ NO
4. Have you ever been told you had: cancer, diabetes, epilepsy,heart trouble, high blood pressure or tuberculosis? (If yes, underline which ailment)	☐ YES ☐ NO	☐ YES ☐ NO
5. Do you know of any impairment in your health or physical condition?	☐ YES ☐ NO	☐ YES ☐ NO

Important: If your answer is "Yes" to any of the questions above, please give full details. Include doctor's name and address, hospital, nature, date, and result of consultation ailment, or impairment. Use separate sheet if necessary.

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End Page

by John L. Silva

Preserving Pagapas Bay

The ensuing battle to stop the illegal dredging of Pagapas Bay, where significant archaeological diggings have been found, demands a firmer resolution from the DENR and the national government

THE MAGIC OF THE BATANGAS COASTLINE BEGINS UPON LEAVING THE TOWN OF LIAN HEADING SOUTH TO THE COVES, INLETS AND SMALL BAYS THAT FORM THE JUTTING LOWER TIP OF THE PROVINCE. IF YOU LOOK AT A MAP OF LUZON, THAT TIP RESEMBLES A STUBBY PUSH PIN FASTENING THE MAIN ISLAND, SEEMINGLY TO KEEP IT FROM DRIFTING OFF INTO THE PACIFIC.

Gentle rolling hills, rice fields, mature mango trees greet the traveler's eyes, and the sea is a distant sparkling presence. Arriving in the Calatagan Municipality, one feels a microclimate change, while stretches of swampland come into view with egrets posed on carabaos and century-old bamboo groves abound. Further, on the windy hilly areas near the tip, a Spanish-period lighthouse appears forlorn.

For several millennia, this strait was the entrance passageway of Chinese and other Southeast trading vessels bearing porcelain, Vietnamese and Thai ware and bound for the southern islands. Archaeologists digging in this area found human habitation and artifacts ranging from 500 to 40,000 years old. The famed Calatagan Jar found with ancient but still visible, if undecipherable, writing came from these parts.

Aerial view of the Pagapas Bay Marine Sanctuary

Pagapas Bay is a small but breathtaking inlet facing the passageway. The coastline is ringed with dense mangrove, home to fish fry and crablets, coral reefs and an occasional fishpond. Fishermen, eking out a day's fish catch, can be seen in their little boats casting their nets. Their wives and children dot the beaches at low tide to gather snails and crabs for added sustenance. As the sun sets, the coastal hills take on a purple-blue appearance as slivers of a dying orange sun trace the evening sky.

Unfortunately, a businessman and resident of this enclave is destroying this portion of divinity. Since December 2000, Raymond Moreno has contracted three backhoes to dredge the sea fronting his piece of land. Day and night the backhoes' mechanical shovels plunge into the water to haul out coral, sand and sea grass. Moreno says he is only desilting the area so that the water from the inland towns flows easily into the bay.

Whether Moreno is desilting or engaging in commercial development, he failed to first apply for an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), nor did he apply for a similar dredging clearance with the Calatagan Municipal Government. Moreno's dredging operations are illegal, violating the 1998 Philippine Fisheries Act (8550) and several presidential proclamations including the commonly known fact that Pagapas Bay is a marine sanctuary.

Efforts by Moreno's neighbors, local fishermen groups and the Batangas chapter of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), to petition him personally or through the local government to stop the dredging operations, were disregarded.

The fisherfolk cannot allow this illegal dredging to continue. For them, the bay is a source of their daily food. Not too long ago, they could fill their nets with fish while their wives and children could gather all the crabs and snails they needed. These days, commercial trawlers visible from their bay haul 15 tons of fish in one evening. This has left very little fish to the local fisherfolk. To add to their woes, the women and children can no longer gather snails and crablets because the coastline's mangroves and seagrass have been destroyed. Malnutrition and a boiling anger seem to be the lot of the fisherfolk in Pagapas Bay these days, thanks to a man who became rich during the Marcos dictatorship procuring army material for then Gen. Fabian Ver.

The fisherfolk have no kind words for their local and national government. Since February 2001, they have gone through the proper channels locally to air their grievances, accompanied by righteous letters and signed petitions. There have been token observations by the Sangguniang Bayan but the dredging continues, making the fisherfolk conclude that the Mayor and the police force are probably in Moreno's pocket. After some bureaucratic passing of the buck, the DENR finally issued a Cease and Desist Order in October 2001 and imposed a fine on Moreno to stop the operations. It was around this time when a boatload of armed men, suspected of being communist rebels, made a visit to the dredging site, scaring the dredging operators and stopping their work.

Unfazed, Moreno secured a Temporary Restraining Order but promised to return the bay to its original state in 15 days. The two-week promise has lapsed but dredging operations still continue and the mound of earth has risen, as well. The ensuing battle to preserve Pagapas Bay demands a firmer resolution from the DENR and the national government.

Calatagan, where Pagapas Bay is located, is the site of 29 archaeological digs, making it one of the largest number of diggings in the archipelago. In fact, the Archaeological Department of the National Museum has plans for the coming year to return to Calatagan for a new round of diggings. Significant underwater archaeological finds have been discovered in the surrounding waters including the much vaunted San Diego shipwreck, whose treasures are now admired by thousands of visitors to the National Museum. But if laws are flouted and the government half-hearted in enforcing them, there will be no food for the fisherfolk and no heritage left to be discovered for a starving country.

Noteworthy

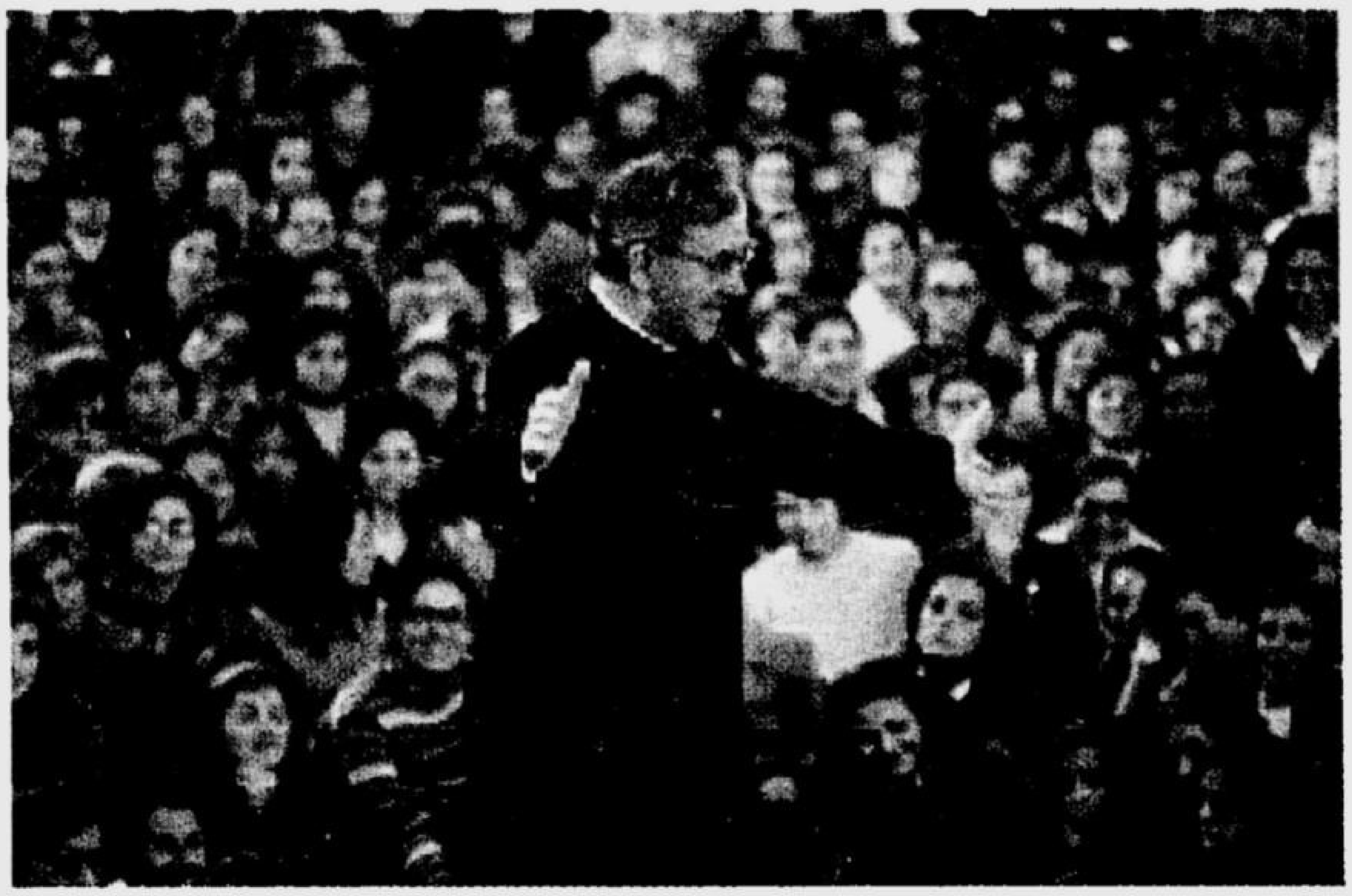
by Christine Gomez

They Call Him **Father**

Josemaria Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei, marks his 100th birthday on the road towards sainthood

“THERE IS SOMETHING HOLY, SOMETHING DIVINE IN YOUR ORDINARY EVERYDAY LIFE AND IT IS UP TO YOU TO DISCOVER IT.” THESE WORDS WERE FIRST SAID BY A PRIEST ONE AFTERNOON IN 1967. TODAY, 34 YEARS LATER, THEY CONTINUE TO RESOUND IN THE HEARTS OF MANY PEOPLE IN THE FIVE CONTINENTS WHO CALL THAT HOLY PRIEST “FATHER.”

Josemaría Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei who marked his 100th birth anniversary last January 9, 2002, was born in Spain, the second of six children. His childhood was generally happy, but not without sorrow; by the time he was a teenager, he had seen his three younger sisters fall ill and die in consecutive years. In 1915, his father was left bankrupt after the collapse of his textile business and relocated with his family to another town to find work.



In January 1917, after a heavy snowfall, Josemaría saw some bare footprints on the snow left by a Discalced Carmelite friar. Where others saw a mere set of footprints, young Josemaría glimpsed the hand of God. He decided to become a priest and was ordained in Saragossa in 1925.

On October 2, 1928, while doing a retreat, Josemaría clearly saw the job that God had given him: to remind all men and women that everyone is called to holiness.

He eventually called his foundation Opus Dei, Latin for the work of God. Its message is that God can and should be found through one's everyday work and social life.

Not everything was smooth sailing. Curiously enough, many found the simple message of finding sanctity in the ordinary a complex one. There were also formidable external obstacles like the Civil War in Spain, which broke out in 1936.

In 1941, Opus Dei received diocesan approval from the bishop of Madrid. In 1946, Fr. Escrivá moved to Rome from where he oversaw the expansion of Opus Dei. In 1947, it received its first Pontifical approval from Pius XII. In 1950, it was allowed to admit married people.

By the time of his death on June 26, 1975, there were 56,000 people in Opus Dei in over 30 countries. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II 17 years later, in May 1992.

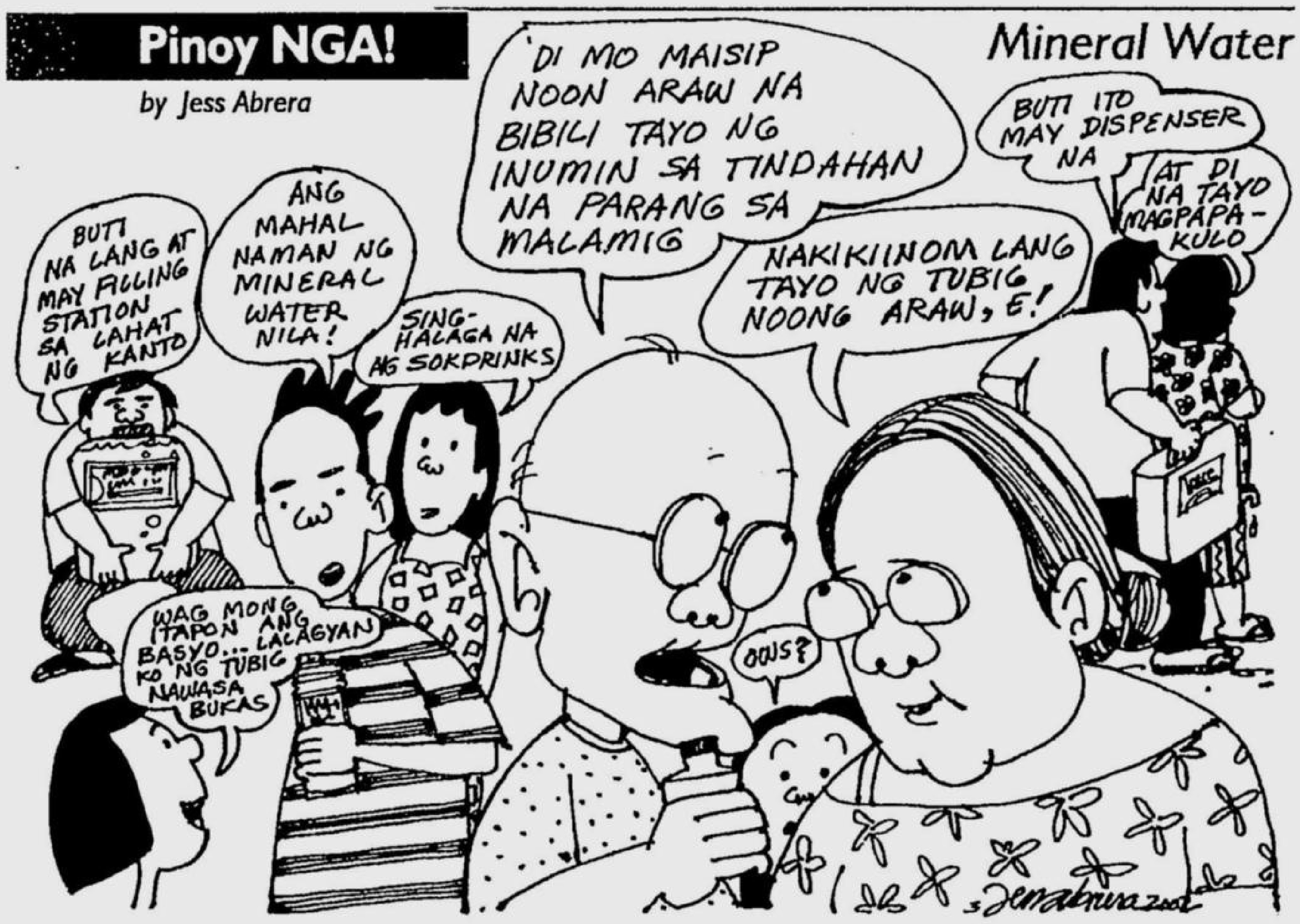
Today Opus Dei has about 84,000 faithful, men and women of all ages and backgrounds, mostly married, living in over 60 countries.

On December 20, 2001, Pope John Paul II approved Decrees of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, among them the miracle of Blessed Josemaría Escrivá. The miracle was worked on a Spanish Doctor, Dr. Manuel Nevado who was cured of a disease in both hands. This approval is one more step in the process of canonization.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Mineral Water


'DI MO MAISIP NOON ARAW NA BIBILI TAYO NG INUMIN SA TINDAHAN NA PARANG SA MALAMIG
BUTI NA LANG AT MAY FILLING STATION SA LAHAT NG KANTO
ANG MAHAL NAMAN NG MINERAL WATER NILA!
SING-HALAGA NA NG SOKPRINKS
NAKIKIINOM LANG TAYO NG TUBIG NOONG ARAW, E!
BUTI ITO MAY DISPENSER NA
AT DI NA TAYO MAGPAPA-KULO
WAG MONG ITAPON ANG BASYO... LALAGYAN KO NG TUBIG NAWASA BUKAS
OWS?
Jessabrera 2002

COVER...from page 9

ALBERT remains busy at 45. He's still waiting, oddly enough, to photograph the Tour of Luzon, having stated an often-frustrated wish to cover the local bicycle race. In the meantime, he may have passed on those photographic genes to the next generation. “My daughter Mabel's already starting to become interested in photography.” Albert intends to encourage her. “I love this job, it's like a passport to the world.”

Even as he continues to reap acclaim and monthly royalties for The Shot, he's already busy looking for the Next Shot. “You never stop. As long as my knees are still strong, as long as I can still jump on military trucks and climb fences, I'm going to be out there. That's what our lives are about. I don't mind the risk.” In the endless unwinding of his life, Albert Garcia continues to be patient, yet ever vigilant, always ready to capture that fleeting moment and, through the alchemy of eye and chemicals, transform that split second into eternity.

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This Week

Art

Glowing Earth, Juvenal Sanso's exhibit focusing on landscapes at Finale Art Gallery, 4/L SM Memagall A until today.

Crossroads II, mixed media works by UP students Francis Argente, Migs Sagcal, Gerry Crudo and Angelo Magno until Jan. 31 at Flute Wine Bar, 120 P. Leviste St., Makati. For details, call 812-5287 or 812-1089.

Onstage

The Ateneo Children's Theater presents **The Wiz** featuring talented students from Ateneo, Miriam Grade School and St. Bridget's School. Playdates are Feb. 1 and 2, 6 p.m. at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater, Ateneo Campus. For inquiries, call 426-5957.

Promises, Promises, a delightful interpretation of the Burt Bacharach, Neil Simon and Hal David '60s hilarious Broadway musical collaboration presented by Actor's Actors Inc., Feb. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14 15 and 16 at Onstage, Greenbelt featuring Rachel Alejandro, Lee Robin Salazar and Michael Williams. Tickets available at National Bookstore's Ticketworld, Robinsons Dept. Store (Ermita and Ortigas), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang) and Music Museum. For inquiries, call 891-5610.

Luna, Tanghalang Pilipino's historical musical about Antonio Luna, Feb. 1, 2, 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8 p.m.; Feb. 2, 3, 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 2:30 p.m. at the CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio V. Tolentino. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1620

Cinema

Les Anges Gardiens, a hilarious and action-filled film about a striptease club owner (played by Gerard Depardieu) who gets involved in a kidnap rescue, Jan. 30, 8 p.m. at Alliance Ondeo Auditorium, Alliance Francaise de Manille, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City.

Food

Perk up your day with **Cafe Blanca**, a shot of rich, full-bodied espresso topped with a swirl of creamy frothy milk, available at the Art Café of Hotel-Intercontinental Manila until Jan. 31.

Manila Galleria Suites in Ortigas Center presents a two-week **International Food Festival** with a feast of Eastern and Western cuisine at the Raphael Café-Restaurant until Feb. 2. For reservations, call 633-7111 ext. 7416.

Atbp

Philippine textile scholar Norma Respicio will hold an **art lecture** on the designs of textile weaving groups in Northern Philippines – the Iloko, Itneg, Bontoc, Ifugao, Kalinga and Gaddang – and what these reveal about cultural affinities among these people on Jan. 30 at the Lopez Memorial Museum. For details, call 631-2417 or 449-2355.

The **Chocolate Kiss Café** celebrates its fifth anniversary with a dinner jam session featuring the Spirit of '67 band at the UP Bahay ng Alumni on Feb. 1. Dinner entertainment will be provided by Da Capo and Bagting Hangin. Tickets are available at the Chocolate Kiss Café or call 925-2505.

The **Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts** located at Bon Apetit, 3/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall announces its classes for February: Soup, Salad and Sandwich Combinations (Feb. 1 and 2); Main Course and Side Dishes (Feb. 6 and 8); The Ultimate Cake Collection I (Feb. 9); Brunch/Light Lunch (Feb. 11 and 13); My Sinful Cheesecakes (Feb. 16); California Cuisine (Feb. 20 and 22); Lasagne from Scratch (Feb. 23); Carribean Cuisine (Feb. 25 and 27). For inquiries, call 634-7464 loc. 214.

The Continuing Management Education Program of the University of Asia and the Pacific's School of Management will hold a **Finance for non-finance managers seminar** from Jan. 28-30. For details, call 634-2834 or 637-0912 loc. 241.

Likhaan: The UP Creative Writing Center announces the extension of the deadline for submission of applications to the **40th UP National Writers Workshop** to Feb. 7. Applicants may submit either six poems, two short stories, or two one-act plays for the theater. Each entry must be in one genre and one language—English, Filipino, Bicol or Iluko. For details, call 922-1830 or 920-5301 loc. 7974.

Global Minds—UK Education Fair, featuring Bradford College, St. Edmund's College, The London Institute, University of Birmingham, Coventry University, University of Hertfordshire, Middlesex University, Oxford Brookes University and Thames Valley University. Representatives of the participating universities will answer inquiries about general admission procedures, courses and career opportunities after you earned your degree. To be held on Feb. 1-2 at the Kamia Room, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza and in Cebu on Feb. 3-4 at the Gumamela Room, Marriott Hotel. For details, call 914-1011 to 14.

X-manila

The **Aquino Museum** in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac is now open on Sundays from 2-5 p.m. Museum schedule is as follows: Monday, 2-5 p.m.; Tuesday closed; Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12 noon; Thursday, 2-5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-12 noon; Saturday and Sunday, 2-5 p.m.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.